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Near East/South Asia Report

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22 February 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Briefs

Palestinian Document Renewal	1
Airline Between Moscow, Ash-Shariqah	1

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

Armenian Archbishop Praises Minority Support (IPNA, 1 Feb 84)	2
--	---

ARAB AFRICA

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister on Egypt's Return to ICO (TAP, 20 Jan 84)	3
Former Iranian Prime Minister Congratulates Bourguiba (Tunis Domestic Service, 26 Jan 84)	4

ARAB EAST/ISRAEL

IRAQ

Baghdad Azeri on Mullahs Continuing War (Baghdad International Service, 29 Jan 84)	5
Opposition Sources Report Executions of Army Officers (AL-NASHRAH, No 6, 12 Dec 83)	6

Briefs		
Egyptians March in Baghdad Streets		7
JORDAN		
Telecommunications Talks Conducted With Sweden		
(AL-DUSTUR, 1 Nov 83)		8
Central Bank Publishes Statistics		
(AL-DUSTUR, 1 Nov 83)		10
Oil Exploration Progress Reviewed		
(AL-SIYASAH, 19 Nov 83)		11
Briefs		
Economic Projects		12
Data on Industrial Projects		12
OMAN		
Construction Reported Booming		
(Muzaffar Mohammad; TIMES OF OMAN, 26 Jan 84)		13
Briefs		
Exports Up		14
SAUDI ARABIA		
Prominent Women Discuss Women's Role in Country's Development		
(Nurah Khalid al-Sa'd; AL-RIYAD, 20 Dec 83)		15
SYRIA		
Provinces Report on Crop Production, Planning		
(AL-BA'TH, 26 Sep 83; TISHRIN, 16 Oct 83)		55
Hims Production, Obstacles		
Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Factory, by Naji As'ad		
AL-BA'TH Criticizes Rumsfeld Mission		
(Jubarah al-Barghuthi; AL BA'TH, 1 Feb 84)		60
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		
U.S. 'Intervention' in Lebanon Denounced		
(WAM, 3 Feb 84)		62
Warning Against Escalation of Gulf War		
(WAM, 4 Feb 84)		64
Comments on New Tension in Gulf War		
(Editorial; KHALEEJ TIMES, 5 Feb 84)		65

Middle East Role, U.S. Election Examined (WAM, 30 Jan 84)	67
Comments on U.S. Election, Israel (Dubayy Domestic Service, 31 Jan 84)	68
UAE Daily Expresses Regret for Bitter Arab Situation (WAM, 29 Jan 84)	69
Briefs	
Emirate To Export Oil	70
Call for Measures Against U.S.	70
Unemployment Figures	70
Explosives Factory Opens	70

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

NVOI Condemns Iran's 'Subversion' Against Afghanistan (National Voice of Iran, 2 Feb 84)	71
---	----

INDIA

Press Reports Developments in Defense Production (Various sources, various dates)	73
Tank Prototypes Ready	
Development of Defense Systems	
Tank 'Best in World' by S. Kumar	
New Rifle for Army	
Gandhi at DRDO Celebration	
Interview With Chief of Army Staff	
British Involvement in Indian Development Discussed (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 10 Jan 84)	81
Analyst Gives Indian View on Sri Lanka Tamil Problems (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 9 Jan 84)	82
Seminar on Center-State Relations Held in Madras (THE HINDU, 9 Jan 84)	84
Punjab Governor Describes Law and Order Situation (THE HINDU, 9 Jan 84)	87
Indo-British Economic Committee Protocol Reported (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 12 Jan 84)	88

Rajiv, Kaul Speak to Nonresidents' Conference (PATRIOT, 8 Jan 84)	90
Improved Neighbor Relations Main Thrust of Foreign Policy (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 7 Jan 84)	92
RBI Explains Lack of Seasonal Price Changes (THE HINDU, 10 Jan 84)	94
Analyst Discusses Changing Attitude Toward Pakistan (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 13 Jan 84)	95
Pakistan Suspected in Indian's Servants' Disappearance (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 14 Jan 84)	97
Gandhi Discusses Andhra Pradesh Leader's Moves (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 14 Jan 84)	98
Nakasone Expected in India Before End of April (K. V. Narain; THE HINDU, 17 Jan 84)	100
Panel Issues Questionnaire on Center-State Relations (THE HINDU, 17 Jan 84)	101
Analys' Reports Confusion Over UNGA President's Letter (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 27, 28 Dec 83)	102
'No Enthusiasm' Seen Confusion Over Letter	
Gandhi Concerned Over 'Foreign Hand' in Punjab (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 22 Dec 83)	104
Home Minister Tells Stance on Foreigners Issue (THE STATESMAN, 20 Dec 83)	106
Ministers Reassure Lok Sabha on Security (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 21 Dec 83)	108
Raids Against Extremists Yield Bangladesh Arms (THE TIMES OF INDIA, 23 Dec 83)	113
Sailo: Most Mizos Feel Secure in India (THE STATESMAN, 21 Dec 83)	115
Shultz Meeting Denial Called Rebuff to India (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 23 Dec 83)	116
Reorganization of Foreign Ministry Underway (G. K. Reddy; THE HINDU, 29 Dec 83)	117
Public Sector Defense Units Improve Performance (PATRIOT, 28 Dec 83)	119

Briefs	
Underwater Transducers	120
Spies in Punjab	120
Soviet Air Force Chief	120
New Front Formed	121
Indian Cosmonauts' Tasks	121
Industries Act Amendment	121

IRAN

Foreign Minister Velayati Interviewed on Various Issues ('Ali Akbar Velayati Interview; KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL, 25 Dec 83)	122
Iran Clandestine Reports on Iranian Funding of Terrorism (Free Voice of Iran, 3 Feb 84)	126
IRNA Reports Majlis Deputies' Message (IRNA, 31 Jan 84)	127
Deputy Foreign Minister Calls FRG Talks 'Fruitful' (IRNA, 1 Feb 84)	128
Tehran Paper Comments on U.S. Linking Iran to Terrorism (JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, 25 Jan 84)	129
Sairi Spokesman Denounces Recent Iraqi Threats (Tehran Domestic Service, 5 Feb 84)	130
Khalkhali Speaks on Imam's Return Anniversary (Tehran Domestic Service, 31 Jan 84)	131
Briefs	
Iran Clandestine Reports Guards Defection	132
Zionist Policies Denounced	132
Protests Over Power Failure	133

PAKISTAN

Pakistani Paper Comments on Trade With India (Editorial; THE MUSLIM, 21 Jan 84)	134
Iran Wants To Buy More Pakistani Sugar, Produce (DAWN, 23 Jan 84)	136
Briefs	
PRC Envoy Discusses Bilateral Relations	137
Information Minister Meets Indonesian Counterpart	137
RCD Secretary General Appointment Welcomed	138

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

PALESTINIAN DOCUMENT RENEWAL--Salah 'Abbushi, Lebanese ambassador to the UAE, told AL-KHALIJ yesterday that the Lebanese Embassy has begun renewing Lebanese travel documents for Palestinians. Approval to renew the documents of 130 persons was received the day before yesterday. He said contacts are going on between the Lebanese Foreign Ministry and the UAE Government on the renewal of these documents and that the UAE Government is responding greatly to these measures. [Excerpts] [GF271141 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 27 Jan 84 p 1]

AIRLINE BETWEEN MOSCOW, ASH-SHARIQAH--Ash-Shariqah, 5 February (WAM)--An airline for air freight between Ash-Shariqah Airport and Moscow was opened this afternoon. The line was opened by Shaykh 'Abdallah Al Thani, director of the Civil Aviation Administration in Ash-Shariqah, after the arrival of a Russian Aeroflot plane from Moscow in the airport. [Text] [GF051900 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Feb 84]

CSO: 4400/153

ARMENIAN ARCHBISHOP PRAISES MINORITY SUPPORT

GF011812 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Tehran, 1 February (IRNA)--The Armenian archbishop here, Ardak Manukian said today that the rights of Iranian Christians have been more firmly upheld since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran. Speaking to IRNA on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the archbishop further said that the Armenian community did not have any problem in performing their religious and cultural rituals.

Stressing that the Islamic Revolution has stimulated political and social growth of the Armenian society, he said that publications in the Armenian language have flourished after the Islamic Revolution.

Condemning the baseless propaganda of the mass media of the Eastern and Western world oppression alleging that religious minorities were under pressure and under political, cultural and religious restrictions, in the Islamic Republic, he said that the rights of religious minorities especially Armenians have been honoured in the best way after the Islamic Revolution.

Talking on the active role of Armenians in the Iraqi imposed war, Archbishop Manukian said that the Armenians have so far offered about 40 martyrs in the war which has been imposed upon Iran by superpowers and their subservient lackey, Saddam.

He once again reiterated that all the rights of Armenians have been respected in the Islamic Republic.

In conclusion, the archbishop quoted an expression from President 'ali Khamene'i of the Islamic Republic stating that religious minorities were members of the great body of the Islamic ummah and shared all the happiness, blessings, efforts, and hardships of the Islamic Republic.

CSO: 4600/337

FOREIGN MINISTER ON EGYPT'S RETURN TO ICO

LD201229 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jan 84

[Text] Casablanca 20 January (TAP)--Within the debate that took place Wednesday on the plan proposed by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure regarding annulling the suspension of Egypt's membership in the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO), Beji Caid Essebsi intervened for the second time the day before yesterday. He stated that Tunis had explained, at the Fes summit and on Tuesday, its stance vis-a-vis the essence of the subject.

The submitted plan raises before us a major fundamental problem, he said, because it places us in a position of contradiction with our principles and with the positions we have previously adopted, consciously and after careful thinking. Additionally, Tunis doubts whether this decision would bring about any progress in finding a solution to the Palestine or Jerusalem issues. In any case, Tunis is not able to object to the conference's resolution, but it is not able to support the proposed resolution in harmony with its principles.

TAP has learned that contrary to rumors spread in press circles close to the conference, no delegation has been sent to Egypt, and thus far only a committee has been set up to formulate a compromise between the various plans. TAP has also learned that the committee has not yet succeeded in preparing any plans.

CSO: 4500/35

FORMER IRANIAN PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATES BOURGUIBA

LD270019 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 26 Jan 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba yesterday received a cable from Dr Ali Amini, a former Iranian prime minister and chairman of the Front for the Salvation of Iran. The following is the text of the cable:

I have been following with great concern and some worry the recent events which occurred in your country and the disturbances. Undoubtedly, you know that those who presently control the affairs of my country are pushed by a crazy ambition to unsettle the Islamic countries all over the world on the basis of a strange perception of Islam, which, in reality, is nothing but [word indistinct] dreams and a tendency for domination and control. (?This is initiated by) one responsible person.

You have been able to safeguard the independence of your country yet again, and save it from a catastrophe due to your political wisdom and great charisma. I would like to express my most sincere wishes on this success, and the sentiments of happiness which I feel due to the passing of a crisis which was concerned with others wishing to impose their will on your country. The credit in this is due to the greatness of your wisdom and your moral influence in your capacity as a respected statesman.

I hope the Tunisian people, whose march you have been leading successfully, prosper and enjoy your leadership of the Tunisian state for a long time.

President of the republic, I beg you to accept my highest sentiments.

[Signed] Dr Ali Amini, a former prime minister of Iran and chairman of the Front for the Salvation of Iran.

CSO: 4500/35

BAGHDAD AZERI ON MULLAHS CONTINUING WAR

GF301425 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1900 GMT 29 Jan 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The crazy rulers of Iran have been resorting to stupid moves which do not comply with common sense. The outcome of such moves can be described as horrible crimes. For example, killing Iranian citizens in accordance with the orders of these rulers and subjecting imprisoned people to torture is supposedly the most necessary measure to secure the continuity of the mullahs' regime.

In accordance with the decrees issued by Jamaran, the cities and villages in Iraq are being bombarded. Innocent people are being killed and, against Iraq's objections to such savage and ferocious crimes, the Iranian rulers are generating every kind of calumny--shamelessly claiming, in the meantime, that the [?such reports on these attacks on cities and villages] are lies. Nevertheless, the war is continuing and the troops massed by Iran are being crushed at the battlefronts. However, the tense situation in the region is escalating as the war continues. And, there is the danger this being the spark for the beginning of a third world war. Meanwhile, freedom-loving international organizations have been persistently demanding the termination of the war for the sake of ending the imperialist conspiracies of the warmongers in Tehran. Common sense has [words indistinct] the peaceful proposals. Iraq has agreed to all the just calls in that regard. Despite this, however, the Khomeyni regime has refused to agree to end the war.

Irrespective of the losses they have been suffering during the war, they are shamelessly continuing to claim that they are waging it for the sake of Islam. Khomeyni, who has described what is legitimate as illicit and what is illicit as legitimate, is totally responsible for all the crimes committed in the name of Islam. These bloody crimes will be attributed to the undeserved names of these criminals forever. This aggressive war waged against heroic Iraq will destroy Khomeyni and those gathered around him. It will destroy the bloody rule of the illiterate impostors who have stained Iran with blood. This bloody war, which has placed all peace-loving people, that is to say the peoples of Iran and Iraq in particular, in a difficult position, will become a means of reestablishing the historic friendship between the Iraqi and Iranian peoples.

OPPOSITION SOURCES REPORT EXECUTIONS OF ARMY OFFICERS

Nicosia AL-NASHRAH in Arabic No 6, 12 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] Iraqi opposition circles have reported that the Iraqi authorities recently carried out dozens of executions of officers in the Haj 'Umrān and Zurbatiyah sectors. It is known that among them were Staff Brig Gen Burhan Khalil Muhammad, a 37-year old brigade commander, Staff Lt Col Waddah Khalil Hindi, a brigade commander in the Zurbatiyah sector, and Maj Ghanim al-Sammak, a regimental commander in the Zurbatiyah sector.

The Iraqi authorities also arrested Col Muhammad Rakan 'Aziz, another brigade commander, according to the same sources, as well as Staff Brig Gen Nawzat Muhammad, commander of the Irbil region.

The Iraqi sources said that a number of officers had been transferred to marginal administrative positions, among whom was Staff Maj Gen Ni'mah Faris al-Muhyawi, who was transferred from his post as commander of the First Corps to the al-Bakr Academy. Staff Maj Gen Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, the son of President Saddam Husayn's maternal aunt, was appointed in his place. The commander of the Fourth Corps, whose name is Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, and Air Maj Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Sudani, director of Air Force intelligence, were transferred to administrative positions in the Ministry of Defense.

CSO: 4404/300

BRIEFS

EGYPTIANS MARCH IN BAGHDAD STREETS--Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)--The Egyptian workers in Baghdad have expressed their pride in Iraq's pan-Arab stands. During a march in a number of Baghdad streets today, they expressed their readiness to carry arms and participate in the pan-Arab battle against the Iranian regime's aggression. Addressing the participants in the march in front of the building of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, the trade unions' secretary general said that Egypt will remain the Arab nation's strategic depth, pointing out the struggle and pan-Arab stands of the Egyptian people. He emphasized that Iraq under President Saddam Husayn's leadership will score victory over the enemies and covetous, regardless of the sacrifices. [Text] [JN031735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Feb 84]

CSO: 4400/153

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TALKS CONDUCTED WITH SWEDEN

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] A discussion held yesterday dealt with forms of cooperation between Jordan and Sweden in the field of telecommunications. Possible areas of cooperation in this field were specified.

The meeting was held yesterday by the two sides under the leadership of Minister of Communications and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Telecommunications Organization Dr Muhammad al-Zayn representing the Jordanian side and Minister of Communications Curt Bostrom representing Sweden. The meeting included a discussion of Jordan's need for loans and technical aid in order to carry out projects already evaluated through the necessary studies. Also discussed was the extent to which Sweden might be able to participate in this field.

Dr al-Zayn affirmed that Jordan is interested in developing cooperation between the two countries in the field of telecommunications and intensifying programs for the training of Jordanian technicians in Sweden.

The minister of communications reviewed development programs for the College of Telecommunications, emphasizing the government's intention to support this college so it will become an advanced technical support not only for Jordan but for all Arab countries.

He praised the program that the Swedish Government has implemented to train a number of Jordanian administrators and technicians in the field of communications.

The guest minister expressed his pleasure at visiting Jordan and praised the accomplishments it has achieved in a variety of fields.

Eng Samir Qa'war, director of planning for the Telecommunications Organization, made a presentation on the origin of telecommunications, the stages of its development, and future plans and projects--particularly those covering the rural areas of Jordan.

He said that the southern region in general and the governorates of Ma'an in particular are in need of major projects to support the many industries

that have been implemented. On this basis, the organization is striving to provide financing on easy terms for these projects.

The two sides agreed to pursue the implementation of steps to develop cooperation between Jordan and Sweden.

Also attending the meeting for the Jordanian side was Eng Salih 'Atiyat, general director of the Telecommunications Organization. Attending for the Swedish side were members of the delegation accompanying the minister.

8591

CSO: 4404/178

CENTRAL BANK PUBLISHES STATISTICS

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] The assets of the commercial banks through last August totaled 1,249,597,000 dinars. The corresponding figure for the same period of 1982 was 1,461,903,000 dinars.

The monthly statistical report published by the Jordanian Central Bank said: "The commercial banks' assets in the form of Jordanian banknotes and coins as of the end of August totaled 12,469,000 dinars compared to 11,685,000 dinars at the same time last year."

As of the end of August, the reserves of the Central Bank totaled 121,248,000 dinars as opposed to 95,973,000 dinars during the same period last year.

Total cash in foreign currency as of the end of August was 1,566,000 dinars compared to 875,000 dinars last year.

The value of investments abroad up to the end of August totaled 17,161,000 dinars as compared to 7,311,000 dinars for the same period last year.

The statistical report indicated that the reserves of the domestic banks as of the end of August totaled 74,818,000 dinars as opposed to 59,412,000 dinars for the same period last year.

The discounted value of bills as of the end of August totaled 186,376,000 dinars as opposed to 176,713,000 dinars as of the same time last year. The value of loans as of the end of August totaled 821,322,000 dinars versus 680,299,000 dinars for the same period last year.

The value of domestic investments as of the end of August totaled 25,218,000 dinars compared to 17,024,000 dinars for the same period last year.

The statistical report stated that the value of treasury bills and bonds through the end of August totaled 119,960,000 dinars versus 89,166,000 dinars for the same period last year. The value of checks and cash withdrawals through the end of August totaled 10,118,000 dinars as opposed to 12,001,000 dinars for the same period last year. The value of real estate and furnishings as of the end of August totaled 44,439,000 dinars as opposed to 35,763,000 dinars for the same period last year. Other assets through the end of August totaled 65,576,000 versus 57,573,000 dinars for the same period last year.

OIL EXPLORATION PROGRESS REVIEWED

Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Nov 83 p 10

[Text] Will Jordan enter the ranks of the oil states? This question has been repeated a number of times on a variety of occasions in the past. One report stated that oil was discovered in the southern regions of Jordan. Another claimed oil discoveries in the al-Azraq area--near the Saudi-Jordanian border, to be exact. But what are the facts about oil discoveries?

Engineer Muhammad Abu 'Ajimah, director of the Office of Geological Research of the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority, recently revealed the true answers to these questions about the existence of oil in Jordan. Based on documented scientific facts and figures, he explained that oil can be extracted in Jordan in several areas. The most important of these areas are Jurf al-Darawish, al-Sultanah, al-Lajjun, and al-Hasa in which oil-bearing rock formations have been discovered. Extremely large quantities of oil can be extracted from these formations.

By way of example, Engineer Abu 'Ajimah stated that an estimated 800 million tons of oil could be extracted from oil-bearing rock in the Jurf al-Darawish area. He said that the first geological reserves in the Jurf al-Darawish area are estimated at 14 billion tons, yielding an average oil percentage of 5.7 percent. The estimated reserves in the al-Sultanah region are 1 billion tons, which would yield around 9 million tons.

Mr Abu 'Ajimah indicated that a group of German companies was hired to conduct an economic and technical cost-benefit study of a project aimed at exploration for oil-bearing rock in the al-Lajjun area. These companies recommended that some 55 wells be drilled in the area as one of the main prerequisites for the cost-benefit study. They also recommended hydrological studies and an aerial topographical survey. To this point, 10 wells have been drilled in this area with a combined depth of 545 meters.

In central Jordan, drilling operations have continued in the areas of al-Sultanah and al-Hasa where some 20 wells were drilled to a combined depth of 1,906 meters. In all instances of drilling, the wells were characterized lithologically in the field and core samples of oil bearing rock were characterized in the laboratory. All samples were sent for analysis.

8591

CSO: 4404/178

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC PROJECTS--Some 15 economic projects were approved during 1983 representing a total capital investment of 4,572,000 dinars. A total of 2,893,274 dinars in tax exemptions were granted to these projects. Ten economic projects were licensed representing a total capital investment of 6.49 million dinars with total tax exemptions of 2,079,450 dinars. These projects were distributed among the kingdom's governorates as follows: 13 in Amman, 1 in Irbid, 1 in al-Zarqa', 2 in al-Salt, 1 in Ma'an, 1 in al-Mafraq, 2 in the Jordan Valley, and 2 in al-Ghawr al-Awsat. [Text]

[Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Nov 83 p 8] 8591

DATA ON INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS--A total of 88 new industrial projects received approval from the Ministry of Trade and Industry between the beginning of the year and 31 November. In its latest issue, the INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER published by the Amman Chamber of Industry stated that a total of 388,000 shares of stock in industrial companies were traded in the Amman financial market during the month of September. This represented 40 percent of all shares traded in the market, which totaled 3,487,000 shares. During the same period last year, some 872,000 shares of the companies were traded representing 48 percent of all shares traded. A traded value of shares of industrial companies for the same month was 2,041,000 dinars representing 21 percent of the total value of shares traded, which was 9,541,000 dinars. The corresponding figures for the same period last year were 936,000 dinars out of the total value of shares traded of 5,073,000 dinars. The newsletter points out that 31 industrial companies had shares traded during September. This represented 42 percent of all companies whose shares were traded. The trading of industrial stocks consisted of 2,378 transactions representing 35 percent of all transactions during this period. The newspaper also pointed out that the number of shares of industrial company stocks traded in the period mentioned was up 59 percent over the same period of 1982.

[Text] [Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Dec 83 p 3] 8591

CSO: 4404/178

CONSTRUCTION REPORTED BOOMING

Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 26 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Muzaffar Mohammad]

[Text]

The Capital Area has witnessed a boom in construction activity estimated at up to 30 per cent higher than the previous year.

The increase in building activity is reflected in statistics released by the Technical Department of the Capital Municipality this week.

Mr. Ali Salem al Hosni, Chief of the Building Permits section of the Capital Municipality, told the 'Times' that 2,008 building permits were issued during 1983 as against 1,950 issued in the previous year. The permits given for change of designs were 1,027. The number of plots demarcated for construction during the same period was 1,419.

Mr. Ali Salem disclosed that building activity during the year had been mainly confined to the Central Business District, Wadi Kabir, Al Khuwair, Al Khodh and Al Hail in Seeb — all burgeoning development areas.

Surprisingly, he added, construction activity in other areas of the Capital, including Qurm

Heights and Medinat Qaboos had been negligible. Al Khuwair alone had contributed to 50 per cent of total construction work.

The Building Permits chief said the number of buildings completed during 1983 was 1,332. There were 1,080 buildings now under construction in the Capital Area.

The number of permits issued for electricity connections was 1,332 while 855 water connection permits were also granted.

The department issued 1,397 permits for construction of minor structures. The number of building permits renewed was 437 while deposits for 403 buildings were returned. Permission for breaking mountains in the Capital Area amounted to 62.

Mr. Ali Salem said the department registered 906 violations of building rules. Owners or contractors in 163 cases were convicted while 733 cases were still pending with the Municipal Court.

The department recorded an increase of 30 per cent in building rule violations in the Capital Area during 1983.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS UP--Oman's exports during the first half of last year maintained a steady growth with oil exports amounting to 61.3 million barrels compared to 58.5 million barrels during the same period in 1982. Non-oil exports increased from RO3.3 million, during the first six months in 1982 to RO 4.2 million during the corresponding period last year, according to statistics released by Al Ghorfa, the bi-monthly published by Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Despite a slight setback in exports, fish continued to be a major item forming 42.9 percent of the total non-oil exports. Fish exports during the first half of last year were valued at RO 1.8 million as against RO 1.9 million in 1982--a 10 percent decrease. Lemons, vegetables, dates and other fruit were other major non-oil exports. The re-exports rose from RO 49 million during the first six months in 1982 to RO 62.8 million last year--a growth of 28 percent. Machinery and transport equipment were the main items, constituting 80 percent of total re-exports. Oman's imports during the first half of last year decreased to RO 444.6 million from form RO 494.5 million during the corresponding period in 1982. The drop in imports is due to a steep decrease in the imports of refined oil, since Oman Oil Refinery began production in November 1982, says 'Al Ghorfa. Imports of refined oil plunged from RO 49.5 million during the first six months in 1982 to RO 7 million during the same period last year. Another major import item, saloon cars and transport equipment, dropped from RO 218 million in 1982 to RO 210 million during the first half of last year. [Text] [Muscat TIMES OF OMAN in English 10 Feb 84 p 34]

CSO: 4400/150

PROMINENT WOMEN DISCUSS WOMEN'S ROLE IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 20 Dec 83 pp 6-7, 24

[Article by Nurah Khalid al-Sa'd: "Women, Development and the Power Women Have To Manage: 27 Leading Saudi Women Holding Positions of Responsibility in the State Speak Their Minds about Areas of Women's Participation and the Role That Is Required of Women"]

[Text] The participation of Saudi women has become quite obvious, but women still need power.

The reality of women's professional status limits their ambitions and reduces the contributions they can make to turn development programs into reality.

In recent years we have developed a select group of competent people who are natives and who can participate in planning.

Ignoring women in [the processes of] planning and formulating policies that have to do with women's programs directly affects their response to implementation.

Successful, informed management requires that planning and practice be merged and integrated.

A study of the impediments encountered by the female labor force is called for.

Why didn't women take part in implementing the generous royal grant for the establishment of a library for women in Jeddah?

The development of women's abilities is growing rapidly.

Along with the early indications of numerous changes the state has been setting forth at many work sites, there is a continued effort to revive that growth whose aim is to develop the manifestations of material life as well as the competence and capabilities of individuals. The strategy for the fourth development plan had some of the characteristics of these new changes which indicated that in the course of implementing the first development plans a cultural age had been left behind.

Included in that strategy were references to new employment situations for women that take into consideration those boundaries that do not conflict with the precepts of religion. This makes us wonder in this regard about the role of women in development. We are raising this question in this week's Tuesday Forum, which is about how women participate in development and the powers that have been given to them to carry out their responsibilities. We are raising this question due to the perception of the major role women are now playing in professional life. Our definition of working women is no longer restricted to those women who have diplomas from teachers' institutes. We now have many women who have earned master's and doctorate degrees in education, management, economics and medicine. Is this development on the educational scale, along with the rising competence of qualified women and the increase in their numbers as well as in their disciplines, consistent with the vital and effective role that women aspire to in planning for growth and developing the facilities of life?

As a neutral party in this forum we are offering a variety of opinions in important disciplines and at significant work situations. We hope thereby to be playing a positive role that would help the continuing growth of our country, a growth that is continuing because of the care that is being exercised in formulating plans for it.

The Names of Forum Participants

1. Dr Fatimah Nasif, dean of women students at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.
2. A. Asma' Baharmaz, deputy dean of women students at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.
3. Dr Ibtisam Halawani, deputy dean of women students at the College of Economics and Management, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University.
4. Dr Maryam Baghdadi, deputy dean of women students at the College of Arts, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University.
5. Dr Suhad Bahajri, deputy dean of women students at the College of Medicine and Medical Science, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University.
6. Dr Firyal Satitiyah, deputy dean of women students at the College of Science, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University.
7. Dr Zaynab al-Dabbagh, chairman of the Department of Home Economics in the Division for Women Students at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University.
8. Dr Bilqays Nasir, deputy dean of students' affairs in the Division of Women Students, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.
9. Dr Samirah Islam, chairman of the Department of Pharmacology in the College of Medicine and Medical Science, King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.
10. Dr Fatinah Amin Shakir, the well-known writer and professor of sociology in the Department of Sociology, College of Arts at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.

11. Mrs Fayzah Ibrahim al-Dabbagh, dean of the College of Education for Women in Jeddah.
12. Dr Layla 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hasan, deputy dean of graduate studies at the College of Education for Women in Jeddah.
13. Mrs Faridah al-Hasun, director of educational guidance at the [College of] Education for Women in Jeddah.
14. Dr Amal Muhammad Shata, director of the health unit for women's schools in Jeddah.
15. Mrs Dalal 'Aziz Diya', the official responsible for women's radio programs and supervisor of educational programs on television in Jeddah.
16. Miss Amjad Mahmud Rida, the official responsible for the women's and children's section of the newspaper, 'UKAZ. She is also a well-known author.
17. Princess Munirah bint Musa'id, administrative chief in the Humanities Department at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh.
18. Mrs Mayy al-'Isa, lecturer at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh.
19. Princess Sarah bint Muhammad, director of the Social Supervision Office in the Central District.
20. Dr 'Aishah al-Mani', director of the Social Supervision Office in the Eastern District.
21. Mrs Wafiqah al-Dakhil, director of the Women's Employment Office in Riyadh.
22. Mrs Khayriyah al-Saqqaf, a well-known writer, editor-in-chief of AL-RIYAD and professor at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh.
23. Dr Thurayya al-'Arid al-Dabbagh, first planning analyst in the Public Planning Department at ARAMCO.
24. A. Shu'a' 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Manqur, official in charge of women students' affairs at King Faysal University in al-Damam.
25. Mrs Lawlawah al-'Amari, director of patient relations at King Khalid University Hospital in Riyadh.
26. Mrs Maznah al-'Amari.
27. Mrs 'Ayshah al-Husayni, lecturer at the College of Economics and Management at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University in Jeddah.

The First Question

In your opinion, did qualified Saudi women participate in formulating the plans for development programs in areas where women have been given an opportunity to

work? Examples of these areas are the social, medical, education and information areas. [If women did participate in formulating these plans], in what ways did they do so?

The answers were as follows:

Dr Fatinah Shakir:

In order for the answer to this question to be useful, it has to be specific and supported by facts and evidence because, whether we wish [to admit] this or not, a subject such as this one constitutes a vital question for working Saudi women. First, it affects the extent of their contribution and participation in development programs, and second, it affects the value and effectiveness of that contribution in fulfilling the objectives of development.

Participation in development programs can be approached in various ways. As a citizen I can participate in development programs as a beneficiary of these programs, for example. I can participate in programs to eradicate illiteracy, in health care programs and in social awareness programs. I can also benefit from other programs that are intended to raise the standards of citizens' awareness or qualify them to participate in the work force as an effective part of it.

[As a citizen], I can also contribute to development programs as a worker or a civil servant. In other words I would serve as a tool or an agent to help bring development plans out into the real world.

Whether I would be restricted to the role of a tool or an agent or would step out of that restrictive role to assume a role that is more effective and influential is naturally determined by the degree and the kind of power that goes with the position [I hold]. There are positions whose nature would not allow the persons holding them to do more than carry out what is required by the job description of that position; they cannot go beyond the power that comes with that position, and that most often is limited and narrow. And there are positions whose responsibilities are greater than those previously mentioned. These positions [allow] people who hold them to play a role beyond that of a tool or an agent, a role that is effective and influential. Such a role would not be merely one that meets the job description of that position. Of course, in order for a person holding such a position to fulfill his responsibilities, he will have to have power in proportion to the magnitude of his responsibilities.

Such positions vary in kind and grade with regard to the level of responsibility and the degree and kind of power that goes along with that responsibility.

Such positions get a civil servant out of the confines of serving as a tool and agent and into playing one or all of these possible roles:

1. The role of an observer of the course of progress in his work programs.
2. The role of a student who studies the gaps and pitfalls between the achievements that were expected and those that were actually achieved.
3. The role of a person who proposes solutions or alternate programs to amend,

change or develop existing programs for the purpose of achieving the objectives that are hoped for and doing so as efficiently as possible, while incurring the least possible loss and cost.

4. The role of someone who outlines the objectives of the organization where that position exists, for example, and [then defines] the ideal programs for achieving these objectives.

5. The role of someone who plans or participates in the process of planning development programs, that process being an integrated one whose aim is to achieve national goals.

After these prefatory remarks, let's go back to the main point of our subject: working Saudi women and their participation in the process of planning development programs. Let's imagine, first of all, that there is a professional scale on which are distributed all the actual positions that Saudi women have been given an opportunity to hold since they were officially allowed to work. Let us try, as a second step, to distribute these positions on that scale, after listing them. The standard for distributing these positions on that scale would be the degree of responsibility and the degree of power that go with each one of them. Thus the scale would begin with those positions which are held by people whose roles do not go beyond serving as tools or agents. The last grade on that scale would be for those positions where the work would allow or rather require participation in planning development programs.

Let us now restate the case in this brief question.

Where do Saudi women stand on the professional scale?

An objective answer to that question would require one to conduct a scientific field study in which the occupations that have been open to Saudi women throughout the history of their professional employment would be listed. These positions would then be evaluated on the basis of a standard of responsibility and power, and they would then be distributed on that scale. Because the author of this article is still engaged in such a study and because she does not know of the existence of similar studies, [the ideas] that may be set forth now [in this regard] may not be considered anything more than assumptions.

I expect that after the actual positions held by Saudi women ever since they entered the professional work force are distributed on the professional scale, that scale will reflect [the following]:

--First, a concentration in the category of simple administrative positions where the role of an employee does not go beyond that of serving as a tool or an agent.

--Second, a greater concentration in those positions where the role of an employee goes beyond that of serving as a tool or an agent. These are positions in which employees are effective and influential, as is the case in the role of a teacher.

--Third, a decline in the number of positions as we move to the top of the scale through the previously proposed professional lineup, from administrative supervisory positions to positions involving participation in planning for development programs.

Many of the positions that are held by Saudi women who have a university education or who have graduate degrees have the professional classification of grades one, two and three. There are very few grade four positions for women, and there are almost no women in grade five. This means that one expects that there will be no professional opportunities, or almost none, that would allow women to take part in making plans for development programs. However, women do have a few opportunities to take part in setting forth the objectives of the organizations where they work. They also have a few opportunities to plan their organizations' programs. However, the presence of these opportunities does not in itself mean that women who are holding these positions are actually determining the objectives of their organizations or that they are actually making the plans that are necessary for achieving these objectives.

These expectations may or may not be supported by the field study, but they have to be derived from certain observations or evidence.

What is this evidence?

Let us take, for example, the educational field. As far as I know the highest positions achieved by Saudi women in that field are those of director of educational guidance, dean of the Women's College and dean of the women's division at the university. Because of their importance these positions entail a high level of responsibility which definitely comes within the purview of a grade four position. This is a position [in which an employee plays] the role of one who plans the objectives and programs of an organization. The question here is this:

Did the women who held such positions take part in setting down the objectives and programs of their departments or educational organizations?

[If they did], what was the extent of their participation and how valuable was that participation with regard to its effectiveness on development plans and programs? In other words, if women did participate, did this participation set future development plans in the educational field on the right course?

Because the areas of employment that are now open to Saudi women are numerous, and because the entity, makeup and the objectives of each area differ from those of the other, we may not find satisfactory answers when we raise the previous questions in one professional field and then apply the results in general to other areas. This means that these questions must be looked into in all the areas of employment that are open to Saudi women. These areas may be narrowed down to the educational, social, information and medical areas. The reason for doing that lies in the possibility that discrepancies may be found between the professional areas in the extent to which Saudi working women participate in planning.

For example, it may be assumed that a woman holding the position of director of the women's regional supervisory office in the Ministry of Social Affairs--and this is the highest position achieved by Saudi women in the field of social work--may participate in planning development plans more markedly and more effectively than a woman holding the position of dean of women students at the university. Therefore it is very important that the answers to the questions be based on a methodology for comparing positions that are open to women in the areas of employment in which Saudi women are allowed to work.

I now come to another important question. This is the question: If the scientific field study proves that working women do in fact participate directly or indirectly in planning development programs, does this participation stem from:

1. The power inherent in the position itself?
2. Personal factors? A person in a position, for example, or an experienced woman who specializes in a certain area may be asked to come up with a few suggestions on an unofficial basis.
3. Or the individual effort of a woman holding a certain position?

I find this to be an important question because taking part in planning on the basis of the power of one's position is different in nature and degree of effectiveness from taking part in planning on the basis of personal factors or individual efforts. Unlike participation of the second kind, participation of the first kind is unequivocal, binding and it goes on record as having been made in the interests of working women.

This question leads us to the second part of the subject of this study, which is:

If women do participate in planning, how is that participation manifested? How can qualified Saudi women participate in planning more effectively and to an extent that is compatible with their present role, a role in which they are assuming responsibility for implementing [development programs]?

Since there are positions entailing a high level of responsibility that are open to Saudi women, it may be assumed that women who hold these positions may participate in the planning process in the social, educational, information or health areas. However, some of the observations and evidence indicates that women do not participate in the early stages of planning. Participation is open to women only in the stages of implementation.

For example, [if] the university were to decide to set up programs for graduate studies in the divisions for male and female students, who would be charged with the task of formulating these programs with regard to laying down rules and study plans? Would this be done by a team of male professors only? Would it be done by a team of female professors only? Will joint committees from the two divisions for male and female students be formed to set up these programs that both departments basically share? Reference must be made here to the fact that forming joint committees that combine the experiences of men and women does not necessarily mean that the men and women on these committees will mix. Committees that make use of the experience of both men and women can be formed without allowing committee members to meet face to face.

It is most likely that what actually happens is that a new program is set up by the division for male students and then sent to the division of female students for implementation and suggestions, if there are any. This means that by the time female specialists receive many of these programs, they have already been approved. However, working women in the division for female students are not excluded from the opportunity to express their opinions on these programs. Women many

times take advantage of this opportunity and ask, for example, for some changes in the programs, if these are necessary. Their counterparts in the division of male students may listen to these suggestions and may comply with them.

[In a case such as this] women were given the opportunity to participate, but can this be considered participation in planning? Perhaps, but when the participation of women is manifested in this manner--that of evaluating plans which basically affect them but that are nevertheless drawn up by their male colleagues, such as plans that are within their areas of expertise or within the sphere of women's work--such participation proves to be extremely costly. Why? Because efforts are duplicated and also because the amount of time and money spent is doubled.

Let's take an actual, current example: the royal grant to establish a special library for women and children in Jeddah. This grant was awarded as a noble response to the request made by female students at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University. Effective steps were taken to turn that idea into a material fact. The first of these steps was the formation of a special committee for this project. That committee has actually been formed, but who are its members?

They are a group of honorable men, undoubtedly. But this question must be asked:

Why is it that there are no women on this committee? Why is it that there are no women on this committee taking part in planning the objectives of this library, [deciding] what it should contain and [deciding] what it should offer?

Isn't this library being built in the first place to serve women, families and children? Aren't women [as a group] one of the beneficiaries of this project?

Dr Thurayya al-'Awid al-Dabbagh:

In general, the participation of Saudi women in development is still one of those distant goals that we believe in theoretically. But then we disagree about the particulars of that participation and how it can be achieved.

I have no doubts about women's ability to take an active part in assuming responsibility for planning, managing or implementing [projects] if women are prepared and trained in the required skills [for such tasks]. Despite all the difficulties that have been and are being encountered in the ideal utilization of women's capabilities in our country and despite the short period of time in which women have been given an opportunity to get an education and to be professionally employed, their accomplishments are quite obvious. However, the road that lies ahead for women is still a long one because they have not had adequate opportunities to prove their obvious and not so obvious talents.

This applies to the participation of women in making plans for development. Qualified women working in areas that are open to the employment of women--social, educational, health and information--may have taken part in making plans for development, but they did so indirectly and on a very limited scale. I do not know that they were officially and directly charged by authorized agencies, for example, to conduct research and studies [into such matters]. Their participation in planning may have taken the form of basic information and statistics

pertaining to individual organizations which they presented to their immediate supervisors. They may have even offered some suggestions.

In general, I find that many people think that making decisions in the area of planning and management means relying on experience and intuitive intelligence only to choose between alternatives. But the fact of the matter is that planning, managing and making decisions require distinguished scientific and practical skills. These tasks cannot be charged to any individual--man or woman--simply because he held an executive position for a period of time or because he earned a degree in a scientific or humanitarian discipline.

Planning is itself a scientific discipline in which individuals of both sexes may specialize. The scientific skills of planning include [mastering] the principles of research and statistics and the methodology of compiling and analyzing pertinent data; considering current conditions, possible future conditions, anticipated needs and the direct and indirect results of the various choices; and ascertaining the absence of contradictions or obstacles in parts of the plan in the process of coordinating the various levels and areas of the plan. All this has to be done before a plan is implemented; it is done in the form of projects to which commitments are made, costs pledged and responsibility for negative or positive consequences acknowledged.

In formulating plans on a national scale the individual plans of government organizations are related to the state's general development plan and strategies. Thus, the various parts of this general plan which pertain to each individual sector and organization must be balanced and coordinated with this general plan. Furthermore, the plan must be realistic so that it can be implemented and its objectives achieved. And here [it must be said] that whoever does the planning must be knowledgeable about the prospects, the directions and the areas that are emphasized in this general plan.

It is evident that [such skills] are not available among most male and female state employees even though they may have the necessary experience and knowledge in the skills of their own disciplines. However, those people can play an important, supportive role [in the planning process] by pointing out the actual problems they face in their daily interactions and activities, each in his area of work. They can point out the special experiences they've had in implementing the individual objectives of their organizations. They can also offer suggestions they think would be possible and practical to solve or alleviate these problems. Accordingly, both men and women working in the area of planning would have to consider this information and these suggestions, they would put such information and suggestions to use in formulating the general plan.

There is an inconsistency in the areas of women's employment that has to do with planning and management. Although men do not actually and directly supervise and observe what goes on inside organizations in the women's sector, they are the ones who have to make the administrative and executive decisions [for these organizations]; it is men who have to choose the appropriate solutions [for these organizations] and outline future plans and developments for them. The choices that men make here do not take into account the extent to which implementation of these choices is realistic as far as girls and women are concerned. This is because the men do not feel the actual and direct effect of the choices they

make. A decision [they make] depends primarily on its adherence to existing systems most of which were formulated under past circumstances and conditions as well as different development needs.

Regarding the participation of women in development, [it must be said that] the actual participation of women in the decision-making process--even those decisions that pertain to them--is an area that has not yet been ventured upon, even though there are women who are capable of participating in the decision-making process or capable of being trained and prepared for such a task.

'Ayshah al-Husayni

To answer with precision and candor the question about the extent to which Saudi women participate in making plans for development, [one would have to say that] the simplest form of Saudi women's participation in the process of planning, in the scientific sense of the term, means that they "[formulate] a view of the future and outline a time table for the activities that will be completed or are expected to occur in society." In other words, it means facing the future with previously organized plans so that specific goals can be achieved.

Construed in this sense, I believe quite candidly that Saudi women have not so far participated in outlining plans or policies for several reasons. There are several reasons for this lack of participation, and these reasons may be summarized as follows:

1. A lack of women who specialize in scientific planning.
2. The simple attempts that are made by women holding any position of responsibility are not taken into account by agencies with which these women are affiliated. This is either because the responsible agencies feel that Saudi women lack something in this discipline, or it is due to the negative attitude that is pursued when it comes to women's concerns. I am not referring [here] to any agency in particular.
3. The fact that planning is a new activity in the kingdom has led to a [situation] in which the world of women is not being investigated or utilized in planning development programs.
4. There are no accurate statistics about the number of women and the rates of their contribution to various economic activities [in the country].
5. There are no studies on the employment of the female labor force to pave the way for the formulation of plans and informed programs that would make use of this idle energy. And that in turn has kept women away from planning.
6. There is a lack of practical training to bring out new skills in the area of women's employment, such as the ability to plan, to formulate policies and to make decisions.
7. Planning officials do not turn to women, nor do they seek their advice. Occasionally when their advice is sought, women find themselves without proper direction and with no one to review the mistakes [they make] so they can find out what was right in those tasks and, eventually, develop their capabilities.

8. Educational programs for women are not planned so as to enable women to earn the qualifications and the specialized skills that would serve society and its needs.

9. The traditional view of women's employment and the lack of employment opportunities for women.

Mrs Fayzah al-Dabbagh

This age has been fair to Saudi women, giving considerable attention to their education and providing them with suitable opportunities for employment. This age has encouraged women and pushed them forward; it has given many qualified Saudis an opportunity to make their mark on their areas of work: implementing and managing [programs]. But I do not believe that the opportunity was made available to these competent people to take part in planning for development programs in the areas in which they have been employed. This is not because these competent people were found to be lacking in skills, nor was it because they were incapable. Women were not given a chance to participate in planning development programs because, unfortunately, women are still viewed with caution. Despite the superiority, success and excellence that women have shown in their work and in their studies and although they have demonstrated that they have a profound understanding of problems and an ability to attempt solutions, women are still being viewed with extreme caution. This caution is not consistent with their abilities and resources. Planning is still restricted to a supervisory male staff, and implementation is restricted to a female staff. The most that qualified women are asked to do in the area of planning is merely express opinions and make suggestions. If women present well-considered plans, the matter stops there, and in most cases these plans are not adopted. These plans never see the light of day even though they are based on principles of study and research and even though resources and experiences had been rounded up for them. Qualified Saudi women are still quite far, unfortunately, from being in a position where they can make decisions and participate in [the process of] making plans for development programs, even though the nature of their work in those areas gives them a more extensive understanding [of their situation], and a greater [opportunity] to scrutinize their problems. They can thus come up with healthier plans for development programs for women. The participation of women in these programs would give them the power of the real world as well as depth of experience; it would also do away with many gaps [in their experience].

Dr Fatimah Nasif

Competent Saudi women did not take part officially in making plans for development programs. If women did participate in any way worth speaking of, their participation took the form of personal initiatives undertaken by a few officials who had the opportunity to work in the forementioned areas. Such participation came in the form of recommendations that were included in annual reports, or it came in the form of opinions and suggestions sent directly to officials.

Dr Layla al-Hasan

On the basis of my general observations and my work in higher education I can say that the participation of women in planning is extremely limited. Successful

scientific management requires that planning and implementation be merged and integrated. It also requires that [the process of] making and reviewing decisions be organically tied to actual implementation.

When women are given an opportunity to execute plans that they did not formulate, their output becomes similar to that of machinery. For example, hundreds of items of clothing can be produced in 1 day on a sewing machine that has no awareness of what it is producing. We may say that that machine is highly productive, but we may question the quality of its production, and we may wonder about the thought that lies behind that output!

It is my opinion that an easy solution to this problem with women will be found when their male colleagues realize that God gave women the same mental capabilities He gave them and that women can participate in the decision-making process in the context of the values of their society and the precepts of their religion. Sometimes, however, men are not confident about this matter; other times some men overlook this matter without giving women a chance to prove [the truth of] their claims. I said some men not all men, since social "hang-ups" have an effect on the mental attitudes of some of our male colleagues. [It seems that] a period of time will have to elapse before their impressions of women can be changed.

But his highness the king with his vibrant intellect and his incisive insights has shown interest in women and sympathy with them. There is no doubt that such interest and sympathy will reinforce the role of women and will broaden their contributions in building Saudi society.

Dr 'A'isha al-Mani'

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as we know it is a growing country when compared with other advanced countries. It is considered a developing country. In recent years God Almighty has blessed it with oil. It is on that basis that since the beginning of the year 1390 A.H. [ca. 1970], the kingdom has been able to carry out planned development programs. These development programs were prepared with the assistance of consultants and experts from developing countries. This was due to the fact that competent natives were not available at that time to do the planning for such programs.

In recent years there has been a surge of interest in the participation of competent Saudis, particularly men, in planning development programs. Women, however, did not participate in the planning process because in the past there were no qualified women who could have participated in the planning process. Thanks to God, however, we have recently been seeing competent women beginning to emerge. I believe that the time has come to give women an opportunity to take part in planning since no development program, which professes that increasing production and improving the standard of living are among its most important objectives, can afford to ignore the economic value and potential as well as the needs of half the population, that is, women. Therefore, I think it is important for women to participate in the planning process because women are more knowledgeable about their own needs and demands [than men are]. In the past women and their needs were viewed from a social standpoint, that is, from the standpoint of providing them with social and humanitarian care. This view must be revised, however, and the status of women must be dealt with from an economic and social standpoint.

Social studies have proved that economic and technological growth has had a negative effect on the traditional status of women, particularly with regard to the professions they used to pursue in the past. Economic and technological growth did not provide alternatives to these activities. Therefore, we must revise development strategy and policy, neither of which has given adequate attention to the task of linking the role and status of women in society with economic growth and the change that has taken place in the country in lifestyles and social modes.

One example of this [can be seen] in the fact that the social and economic impact of the migration of workers, particularly female workers, from rural and desert areas to urban cities has not been given any attention.

[A second example of this can be seen in] vocational training and in the availability of employment opportunities, particularly for women, in remote areas. [This is especially applicable to] women in the lower economic class who suffer from difficult economic conditions.

A. Shu'a' al-Manqur

It is my opinion that competent Saudi women did not participate effectively in making plans for development in the areas where women have been given an opportunity to work, whether these areas are social, health, educational or information. The limited participation of women in their spheres of employment lies in their own evaluation of the work with which they are associated. It lies in the suggestions they make and the visible indications they come up with to improve conditions and overcome obstacles which they face and to press for progress toward the goal that is being sought.

Princess Munirah bint Musa'id

Women make up half of society. Accordingly, I can say that women participate directly and indirectly in development programs. The direct participation of women can be found in those areas where women have been allowed to work, and these are somewhat limited.

If we compare the number of women who graduated [from college] with the number of women who are actually employed, we would find that there is a gap which gets bigger in some areas and smaller in others.

Women's indirect participation in development can be found in the home. Women teach and bring up a generation of careful individuals who can implement development programs conscientiously and with understanding.

But we do have to pause, however, to consider whether or not women participated in planning.

Where is the evidence which indicates that women were given an opportunity to express their opinions and make plans for the implementation of [those opinions]? Where is the evidence which indicates that when women are involved in planning they are also in a position to implement those plans so that they can carry out their responsibilities effectively?

Dr Firyal Satitiyah:

First of all, qualified Saudi women did participate in planning in the following areas:

1. In the social area women's participation is actual and concrete.
2. In the health field women participate in an executive capacity, but their participation in making plans for development programs is very limited.
3. In the educational field women participated from a pedagogical standpoint, as in the preparation of courses of instruction in the Public Directorate for the Education of Women. But as far as formulating plans and development programs, women's participation in those areas is still limited.
4. In the field of information women's participation has been more in the area of implementation than in planning.

Aspects of Participation

1. From a social standpoint women supervise social affairs centers, and they upgrade them to the required standard.

--Women establish women's charitable societies which are involved in a variety of activities such as wiping out illiteracy and offering training for typists and educational and religious lectures. Women promote Saudi crafts and encourage other women to become involved in charitable work.

--Women establish child care centers.

2. In the health area women's participation is executive in nature.
3. In the educational area women participate in preparing curricula and syllabi.
4. In the area of information women participate in the press, and they write. But I have no knowledge of their involvement in planning.

Princess Sarah bint Muhammad

Qualified Saudi women did not participate in a principal way in the planning process of these development programs. That is the case if we are talking about planning in the full scientific sense of the term. Development programs that have to do with the women's sector, regardless what these programs are, are formulated as part of the plan for the agency with which the activity of that development program is associated.

Women's participation is restricted to expressing opinions and offering suggestions or ideas. In other words, women's participation is a kind of personal initiative that is presented to officials in that government sector with which that female staff is affiliated.

At any rate, women's participation in planning is up to each individual agency.

It depends on the extent to which [some] rapport and understanding exist between the women who are employed in a certain agency and officials who are responsible for that agency. There are those who give women opportunities to speak their minds or make suggestions, and there are those who do not do that at all.

If we were to approach the subject with greater candor, we would say that women are more capable than men are of perceiving their actual needs. It is women who feel the need for a certain kind of service, which may be in the social, medical, educational or information area. Women know about those services that they actually need, and they also know about the kinds of development programs they or the members of their families or societies need.

In a society like ours where women are separated from men because it is illegal for people of the opposite sex to commingle, in accordance with the precepts of our true religion, men will not understand the actual needs for services or programs that have to do with women and children as much as women can.

If we were to consider this matter from the standpoint of the family in a closely knit society like ours where men spend most of their [free] time with members of their families, we would find that women still have a more profound understanding of the needs of members of their families--children, adolescents and the elderly--despite their differences. The same is true from a public standpoint: women have a better understanding of what the needs are regarding children, maternity and the female sector as a whole.

I can therefore answer the second part of your first question. Just as development programs or projects, whether they are social, medical or educational, are universally applied--that is, [it is assumed that] what meets the needs of the men's sector also meets the needs of the women's sector--there are schools for male students just as there are schools for female students. Various kinds of services are available to both sexes. In other words, there are no projects that are exclusively planned for women by women. This is to say that when women are given the opportunity to take part in making plans for programs that concern them, their families, their children and the women's sector in general, the process of implementation will become effective and more efficient than it is now.

Dr Ibtisam Halawani:

A. Although qualified Saudi women have proven their competence in the various positions they have been holding in those areas where they have been allowed to work, the range within which they work is still narrow and does not go beyond the executive range. That range outlines the boundaries beyond which women may not exercise the intellectual abilities and experiences which they are acquiring as days go by. Although women are actually involved in realistic situations, they continue to be locked out of applying the experience they have been gaining to serve the interests of the public.

The problem of reducing the role that was originally assigned to working women in society may be due to one of two reasons.

First, some individuals of the opposite sex fear that broadening the participation of women in the process of planning for programs that pertain to women's

areas at least may cause women to overstep the responsibilities of those individuals and take over their positions. This would reduce the boundaries under which these men work and eventually reduce their spheres of authority.

Second, there are doubts about the ability of women to make positive contributions to the planning process even when the planning has to do with them, their work or their careers.

These two reasons are based on erroneous assumptions. No matter how disparate are the lines marking women's career paths, these lines are controlled by certain boundaries within which women work. This is based on the fact that the areas within which women work are few and the range in a single area of employment within which women work is narrow. This has to do with their nature and their role as women. If women were to take over from men those spheres of authority in matters that concern them, they would not be infringing on the rights or functions of men. They would rather be correcting a situation and restoring matters to their normal course.

Regarding women's ability to participate [in the planning process], there is no doubt that the success and superior performance that have been demonstrated by many women over the past years confirm their excellence in the work place. It confirms the fact that despite other important responsibilities they are undertaking, women can make contributions and can be effective in a manner that could improve conditions for them and their society. It follows then that the participation of that effective component has not yet seen the light of day. Saudi women are still very far from participating in the planning process. Even if there were opportunities that were few and far between in which women were given an opportunity to speak their minds, as a matter of courtesy to them, there is no commitment [from officials] that what women say will be adopted or taken into consideration.

Dr Amal Muhammad Shata:

When officials wish to devise a development plan for a certain period of time--4 or 5 years for example--they look at the preceding plan. They look at what has and has not been accomplished in the preceding plan from all aspects. They consider the reasons for the shortcomings or the failures of that plan, since such shortcomings or failures, if any, would definitely affect the plan which will follow. It is here that the role of qualified women comes into play to accomplish and bring about the success of development plans.

I believe that women's participation in planning always comes in those reports that are prepared by female officials. In the area of school health, for example, when I write a monthly or an annual report on the number of patients we saw, consultations we've had, problems we are facing and the suggestions and requirements that are necessary to increase efficiency at work--whether these are immediate or future requirements--these reports are examined by the director and officials of the medical services administration, who then forward them to [other] officials so that what needs to be done is done.

I believe that if we were to overcome the difficulties that working women are facing and if we were all to participate in solving their problems, women would

be able to take part [in development] more freely and more efficiently. These problems constitute restraints on women's capabilities that limit their efficiency and their ability to make contributions and assume the responsibilities that have been placed on their shoulders.

Dr Maryam Baghdadi

I believe that women are not involved in planning in general. There is much evidence for this. Let us take, for example, the establishment of an independent university for women. Preparations for that university have been underway for some time, and not a single female official from the university, from the Public Directorate for the Education of Women or from any other area has participated in those preparations, even though there are qualified women who have proven their competence, their farsightedness and their realism on the basis of experience, practice and effort. There is no doubt that if women were consulted or if they at least participated in the planning process, they would serve a useful purpose in some aspects [of planning]. Then there is the matter of opening a library for women. You will notice that only men were chosen to make the plans for that library even though it is a library for women.

If we were to look at women's activities in the university, we would find that women function as executives only. Among the many matters they carry out is that of matching scientific courses which are set up by the male students' division only. The case is the same when it comes to approving scientific research, authorizing full-time employment in scientific research and considering matters of scientific promotion, scholarships, curricula, approving textbooks, department councils and matters of graduate studies. [Making plans for] all these matters is restricted to the division of male students. Hardly do we see any participation by women in the planning process for all these matters. The same principle applies to many other matters in the field of development. Where then is women's place here? I would not be exaggerating, nor would I be biased if I were to say that women are not at all involved in this vital area even though they make up half of society. Women should at least participate in planning for those affairs that concern them. Let them be active members in the planning process for the area of development. Don't women have the right to do that when God Almighty did allude to their effectiveness? God Almighty said, "Women shall have rights similar to those of men" [al-Baqarah: 228]. Why then shouldn't women have the right to participate in planning? We are very hopeful that this point will be considered seriously and that it will find a measure of acceptance so that men and women can contribute equally.

Khayriyah al-Saqqaf:

It seems that the participation of women in making plans for development programs is ineffective and unclear, both in areas where women have been given an opportunity to work and in other areas where they do not have that opportunity. Some steps appear to have been taken, however, to bring about the participation of women in planning. These steps were taken by the secretariat of the Manpower Council. I was personally charged by the secretariat to conduct a comprehensive study that would show results and make recommendations about the employment of Saudi women. I have seen some of these recommendations being implemented.

I have also been informed that other Saudi sisters have been assigned different studies by the same council.

If this is an early sign of [an effort] to make women contribute to studies leading to conclusions which would be set forth for implementation in the context of the planning process for development plans, it is undoubtedly a course that indicates a positive and an understanding beginning for other, broader contributions [by women] in the future. But I think that the fact that women's contributions are restricted to one official agency--as far as we know--is not enough to balance these momentous responsibilities which they bear and carry out without having an opportunity to participate in pre-implementation planning. Therefore, I think that working women, particularly competent women who have degrees and who hold positions of responsibility, must contribute through their work, their understanding of their work and their interaction with it. Working women are to formulate development plans for their areas of work. Their contributions are to be adopted, and they are not to become mere ink on paper. [It is not reasonable for] women not to be asked at all to take part [in the planning process] when their participation will have consequences determined by the nature of their experience and their practice.

Amjad Mahmud Rida:

Of course qualified Saudi women have participated in development and in development programs even though I think that women's participation in the area of development did not come through [their involvement in] planning. This means that women's participation in development has been indirect.

What I think may be contrary to the facts, but it may be consistent with them. This matter can only be clarified through the outcome of individual experiences gained in positions of responsibility.

I would wonder here: Does every woman in a position of responsibility take part in [the process of] planning for development programs? Is this the rule? In the experiences I have had in the few years I have been working in the press, I did not feel that women participated directly in the planning process even though I did get a sense of the effort, the questioning and the bewilderment that some, if not most, officials have felt upon finding themselves in positions of being executive officers. There is, of course, a big difference between being a planner and an executive.

The fact that women are in executive positions is not due to their incompetence [as planners], because if they were, we would not have had a sense of their questioning and their bewilderment. The sense of wonder and bewilderment felt by educated women who know their strengths and their weaknesses is heartfelt. Those educated women want to share that knowledge which they acquired; they want to share that knowledge in those areas where they work. Although they want to upgrade the constructive effort that is underway, they find themselves unable to do so. In most cases this may be due to the fact that there is a lack of adequate confidence in women and in their ability to make contributions and assume responsibilities. I believe this is due to the psychology of men and to ideas about women that have lingered in their minds. It is these lingering ideas about women which men still have that make them unable to turn the reins of responsibility

over to women. But let us not forget here that some men who are flexible did give women power on whose basis these women act. Therefore, the success of women in some areas where they have been given the freedom to act with responsibility has been evident. Of course, this freedom was not given to women until they had proved themselves and made considerable efforts which made men feel confident that if they were to grant women that power, the outcome will be neither frustrating nor poor.

Therefore, we do not deny that there is a group of men who do understand. But why should the success of women and the realization of their constructive ambitions depend on groups of men? This means that in this case women's participation in the planning process will not be the rule. Instead, there will be isolated instances of women's participation in the planning process where some contribution will be made within the boundaries of surrounding circumstances. We are thus compelled to ask this question: Why is it that women have not yet participated in the process of planning in an official and ongoing capacity? When will these isolated instances cease?

I recall here a statement made by an eminent professor, who earned that eminence from the knowledge she imparted to women of her society. The professor said, "Although it's been over 20 years since women began getting an education, achieving prominent positions and earning graduate degrees, they are still denied some of the power that would enable them to take action in their areas of work, develop their work, deal with problems and apply solutions. Responsibilities, decisions, plans and solutions come from the men who always supervise the work that women do." I recall her concluding [a list of] problems by saying, "Many suggestions, opinions and studies have been presented by working women about one of the areas [of their employment]. All of them were based on experience, experimentation, confrontation and a desire to deal with a problem and adopt the best solution to it. However, all of these suggestions and studies were met with either rejection or silence."

Apart from education, we can find another profession in another sector, which is the sector of women's banks [where women are also excluded from the planning process]. I interviewed the director of the Saudi-British Bank, Rima al-Istambulli. Her comments were truthful and candid. Our conversation revolved around the problems of women in banking. At that time in particular a symposium was being held in the western region about women's banks. That was about 1 year ago.

Rima voiced her complaint or her concerns. Her voice gave evidence of that which was distressing a majority of women. Rima said they were merely tools used to carry out tasks. I wonder if conditions have changed in 1 year! Let us leave the banking sector aside and move to another sector: the Bureau of Women's Employment. When a job applicant inquires to find out whether or not she has been accepted for one of the positions, or to put it more accurately, when she asks about whether or not she was nominated for a position, she is told that none of the men had nominated her. The examples we have cited are enough. The outcome is the same: women are tools used to carry out tasks.

Faridah al-Hasun:

Planning in modern societies has become one of the requisites of economic and social development. Today, planning is the way to bring about development. It is

an urgent necessity that is imposed on most societies by the economic scarcity of natural resources and by the fact that the ideal utilization of available resources is problematic, whether these resources are material or human. The labor force constitutes the backbone of the national economy and the strong underpinning for any economic and social development. It is on that basis that making plans for development programs is important. Officials have realized how important planning is in bringing about the ambitious achievements of the state's general plans. They have, therefore, devoted considerable attention to planning. This year we were assigned the task of studying the achievements of the third 5-Year Plan. We were also asked to study the achievements of that plan in the area of education and to identify impediments to implementation in the educational district of Jeddah, since there were items in the plan that were not implemented. [We were also asked] to suggest ideas for the proposed fourth 5-Year Plan.

There is no doubt that going to the level of workers and [seeking] their participation in the formulation of development plans is to be considered a great and significant accomplishment. Their contributions stem from the realism of actual work experience. Accordingly, such suggestions are honest; they side with the truth; and they are based on studying and planning. It is this that ultimately causes female employees and students to make ideal contributions. I believe that just as we were given an opportunity as educators to participate in making plans for development programs, that opportunity was made available to women in other areas of their work: the social, medical and information areas. These qualified Saudi women can participate more effectively [in the planning process] and their participation can have a greater impact if an advisory committee were formed. Members of that committee would represent women from every area of women's employment, and they would formulate ideas and suggestions that could bring about interaction and harmony among the various areas of women's employment. This committee would constitute a coalition that would include the principal supporters of Saudi women's employment. Planning for education is a process that is carried out in a dynamic context even as activities in the various sectors of society are changing. Educational policy and curricula are quantitatively and qualitatively related to health, information and social services projects. Education is the only source of trained manpower and staff for these areas.

Dalal Diya':

It would be difficult to say that qualified Saudi women did participate in some form in [the process of] planning for development programs, even in those areas where they were given an opportunity to participate. I believe that in the future, as the number of academically qualified women grows, the day might come when women will participate in planning for development programs.

But in the past and at the present time we must not forget that women most certainly participated effectively in implementing development plans and bringing about their success, particularly in the area of education and social service.

We can [actually] see qualified women participate in the media, both in the press and in the broadcast media on radio and television.

I believe that it would be best for qualified women to proceed gradually, taking clear-cut and firm, albeit slow, steps toward such practical participation.

This would be safer than rushing matters; women would thus leave their mark clearly and permanently.

Dr Bilqays Nasir:

I do not think that qualified Saudi women participated effectively in [the process of] planning for development programs. I cannot be absolutely certain about that in other areas of employment, but in the university women's participation has been too insignificant to mention.

If memory serves me right, one of the small ways in which women participated in the planning process took place at the university. This was at a symposium for professors of home economics in the kingdom. The symposium was held in Jeddah where the various branches of the Department of Home Economics had been set up on accurate, scientific bases to cover the needs of the country for such vital disciplines. There is great hope that in the near future qualified Saudi women will participate, God willing, in the planning process for numerous and varied programs that are compatible with their areas of specialization.

Dr Zaynab al-Dabbagh:

Although Saudi women have assumed many leadership positions in the area of education and in social facilities, their role in the process of planning development programs has been so small that it is almost non-existent.

If women do get involved at all in planning, their involvement is advisory only. The advice they offer may be accepted, but it is most often rejected.

Mayy al-'Isa:

It seems that in the past 2 years interest in the participation of qualified Saudi women in the process of planning development programs has begun to grow. According to my practical experience and my information qualified women have not yet been given any opportunity to participate in the process of planning development programs, even though they did participate effectively in the implementation of these programs in those areas where they were given an opportunity to work as, for example, in the areas of social [work] and health and educational [services]. It may be that the lack of participation by qualified women in planning for development is due to the fact that when previous development plans were being formulated, there were no qualified women who wanted to participate. Now, however, in view of this enthusiasm and growing interest, there is much hope that qualified women will be given the opportunity to participate in formulating the fourth development plan.

Dr Samirah Islam:

In order for my answer to be objective and brief, I thought I might define for myself the meaning of the term, participation in the process of planning development programs. I would do this by setting off every activity that may be construed as participation in the planning process, and I would then set forth my views of each.

1. Women participate by serving as the subject or material for a development program.

2. Women participate by completing surveys or by surveying individuals in society.
3. Women participate when the opinions or advice of a sample [group] representing a specific community and specializing in one subject is taken.
4. Women's participation [in the planning process] on an official basis may be as diverse as:
 - A. Questioning an official or getting a report from an official who is responsible for a particular sector. [The advice of that official is sought] because of his position, his knowledge of his sphere of responsibility and the benefit of his experience.
 - B. Being chosen to serve as adviser or honorary member of an advisory board that includes a select group of experts who would define some of the particulars of a plan or formulate the entire development plan.
 - C. Being appointed officially in a position at the Ministry of Planning.

Comment on the First Section [of the Definition of Participation]

Women did indeed participate, if their participation is construed as being employed in one of the sectors for which development programs were planned, as in education for women. In time, the development plan for that sector became successful, and in fact, development in the education of women has exceeded the expectations of [both] the first and the second development plans. In other words, the part that women's participation played here was that of being the subject for whom the planning was done. Women's participation here then has been passive in the sense that women have [not] done the actual planning.

Comment on the Second Section [of the Definition]

According to my understanding of the scientific approach, I would have to formulate questions and queries when I undertake a scientific research project or when I make preparations for an educational program. I would then address these questions and queries to individuals who are concerned in an executive capacity as well as to beneficiaries. I would have to do this so that my efforts can approximate reality. I don't know how the development plan in our country is written with regard to the employment of women in the field of education, and particularly university education and scientific research, which has been the area of my work since the end of 1391 [A.H.]. I do not recall being questioned by anyone regarding [plans for] educational development or scientific research.

Comment on the Third Section

It is quite possible that people who are responsible for writing the plan took their information indirectly from samples that represent our society. Women make up half of that society. Therefore, women must have contributed and participated in this way. That is, they must have made an indirect contribution.

Comment on the Fourth Section

A. I am not the only working woman, but I am confident that I am one of the

experts who is knowledgeable about university education, medical education as well as scientific research. Therefore, I do not think it likely that the process of questioning officials was utilized in the process of writing a special plan for women in this field.

B. Selecting a person to serve as an honorary member of an advisory board such as this one is one of the ways [of participation] that I have personally experienced. The regional director of the World Health Organization [WHO] selected me a member of an advisory committee for the development of health services and manpower in the health field. Therefore, I am preparing a number of questionnaires that are being sent to us. These are utilized when the organization's projects are formulated. But I do not know whether or not women made such contributions in our development plans.

C. I have not heard, however, of any formal appointment of women to the Ministry of Planning. But I think that women have succeeded in a number of areas where they worked. Therefore, when a suitable area for women's employment can be found in the Ministry of Planning, women will be the best loyal workers to assume the responsibility and not to avoid evaluation and criticism.

Dr Suhad Bahajri:

Since my work and experience have been limited to the health field, or more accurately, the field of medical education, I will not be able to make a judgment on other areas.

The participation of qualified Saudi women in the planning process in the area of medical education has been subject to fluctuation. At one time such participation was positive, and qualified women were encouraged to express their opinions [when plans were being formulated]. As far as taking opinions into consideration was concerned, there was no discrimination between men and women. Now women are being encouraged to participate again, but I do not think that this is merely a matter of public policy, but it is rather the individual policy of whomever is responsible in the medical sector.

Some people wish that all qualified Saudis can be utilized and involved in the planning process; they make no distinctions between women and men [in that regard]. Others, however, think that it is men who have to make decisions and women who have to carry out those decisions. We have suffered a great deal from that.

Women participated in conducting surveys and formulating plans for the development of medical education as well as curriculum committees; but women did not participate in making the final decisions, nor did they choose the subjects of research or discussion.

Wafiqah al-Dakhil:

Women did indeed participate in planning in the areas where they were given opportunities to work. Although that participation was unnoticed, it has been implicitly recognized; it can be neither ignored nor nullified. Successful planning requires objectivity that is based on what is actually happening in the

areas of work themselves. Since some of these areas are exclusively women's, where conditions are experienced by women not men, planning for those areas must originate basically from those women at the work site itself. Such plans must be based on an actual view of real needs. They would then be combined with supplemental guidelines to officials by issued by higher authorities to shape the way in which implementation would be carried out.

Regarding the second part of the question, [I would say this about] aspects of women's participation in the planning process: these are absolutely proportionate to the employment of females in an agency and the range of the role working women have in that agency. Participation in planning, for example, in the areas of women's education involves defining the female manpower needs in that sector and the extent to which there is a need to expand education and develop the stages of education and curricula. Planning also involves other matters pertaining to that sector. But in another agency like that for women's employment, [for example], participation involves meeting the state's need to hire natives to fill vacant jobs in the women's sector. It involves setting the policy of women's education on the right course, a course that is compatible with the needs of development plans for employees, and dealing with the career problems of women by working cooperatively with the concerned agencies, such as setting up child care centers and so forth.

Lawlawah al-'Imari:

No, qualified Saudi women have not yet participated in planning for development even though they have been very good executives of those plans. Plans were made for women to get educated, and the success they achieved in education was marvelous. Plans were made for women to work in certain areas, and there too the success they achieved in carrying out the plan has been such that there is now a surplus.

The problem now is that the number of educated women exceeds the number of working women. Educational planning involved women in numerous areas, but plans for the employment of women did not keep the same pace as that of educational plans for women. Therefore we've had a surplus of graduates who have not found opportunities for employment. Examples of this can be found among graduates of the College of Business, graduates of the Department of Geography in the College of Arts and many other graduates. What then is the solution [for this situation]? What plans have been made for these numbers of graduates? No plans have been made, and all these graduates are staying at home waiting for employment opportunities. If employment opportunities become available, they will be at lower grades because the vacancies are not compatible with the degrees these graduates have earned.

The problem to a certain extent begins with the present employment system in which both men and women are equally expected to work for a certain number of hours. This system does not take into consideration women's circumstances. To meet these conditions for employment, no Saudi woman can work unless she has someone at home who can replace her in her absence, if she is married and a mother, or if she is not married. Therefore, women are forced to resign when they marry, when they have children or because of family circumstances.

It is my opinion that those who make plans have to know with certainty that social conditions for Saudi women are unlike social conditions for women anywhere else in the world. With that conviction and on that basis they are to begin making special plans for Saudi women [that take into account] those social conditions which differ from other social conditions elsewhere.

For example, we can establish a system that would allow women to work in one of two shifts. Every woman would have to choose the shift that would suit the conditions of her family: either in the morning or in the afternoon. Salaries would be based on an hourly rate; and an adequate number of productive work hours would be achieved. We would get rid of a large number of foreign workers; the labor force would become [predominantly] Saudi as more native Saudi women become employed; and we would solve for government offices many financial problems such as those that have to do with travel tickets and housing for [non-Saudi] contractors.

The problem lies with the bureaucracy. Basically, no one has thought of solving that problem, but many systems will have to be changed so that the process of making the labor force predominantly Saudi can proceed on a normal course and Saudi women can get the chance to exercise their right to participate in national [development].

The problem then requires that women participate in planning because no one knows the conditions of women better than women themselves.

Maznah al-'Imari:

Much has been said about women and their work, and many independent opinions have been expressed on that subject. We as Arab Muslim women know our religion. We know that Islam improved the status of women and gave them all their rights as human beings. I believe that no debate, discussion or false arguments are required here. The history of Arab women is not unknown, and anyone who wants to engage in false arguments has the radiant pages of history testifying to the history of Arab women in all areas.

What matters now is that we talk about women's duties, now that they have had the opportunity to learn, to work, to take part in the progress of this beloved country and to rise to the level of that responsibility which has been placed on their shoulders. But I do not believe that a discussion about qualified Saudi women participating in the process of planning for the future is intended to refer only to that limited number of educated women who work in a limited number of government offices and

Mothers who look after their children and do a good job of rearing them in the desert or in rural areas make up the vast majority [of women]. In my opinion they too are participating in preparations that are being made for that future which we all hope will materialize for future generations. Therefore I think it is important that officials in all sectors and on all levels become aware of and understand the magnitude and the quality of women's abilities: these are abilities that are available locally. It is important that these officials see women not as adversaries but rather as helpers.

First and foremost we must begin by giving up these panels and futile discussions.

Time is not on our side. We must first begin with studies: unless we know our present, we cannot make plans for our future.

The Second Question

The second question was as follows:

How can these qualified women participate more effectively in a manner that is compatible with their present role as individuals responsible for implementation?

The answers were as follows:

Dr Fatinah Shakir:

If we can determine the reasons that thwarted the participation of women in planning in the past and those that are still thwarting their participation at the present time, and if we can overcome those reasons, we can eventually achieve the participation of women in the process of planning for development.

What are these reasons or impediments? I can offer nothing but suggestions as to what these reasons might be. These reasons or impediments may be attributable to [the following]:

1. Saudi women have not had a long history in the field of professional employment.
2. The number of experienced Saudi female specialists is limited.
3. Neither the number of experienced Saudi women nor the kind of experience they have is fully known.
4. There are fears in some groups of society that women may be required to associate with men when they get to certain positions that would give them the power to participate in planning.
5. There is a belief that the experience women have is not essential in the process of planning development programs, even if these programs are essentially related to the substance of their work and their interests and even if the aim of these programs is to serve women or their families.

These are merely a few of the possible causes that may have interfered with the participation of women in the process of planning development programs. But the scientific and social reality of Saudi women now is incompatible with some of these factors as causes. The professional employment of Saudi women has gone beyond the boundaries of experimentation. Experience has been gained in this area, and social legitimacy has been afforded the employment of women, particularly after it became possible to steer the course of women's employment in accordance with our authentic customs and traditions without violating our tolerant religion. Also experienced scientific women specialists are no longer a rare currency in our society. The matter of identifying those experienced women is something that can be corrected: first, a list of these women can be compiled, and, second, their assistance as consultants can be sought so they can study

society's issues and propose solutions to them. This would be a preliminary and an effective step toward the participation of women in planning for development.

The other two possible [causes or impediments], if they are that, are, [first], fears of the possibility that men and women will associate with each other, and, [second], a lack of conviction in the fact that the participation of women in planning for development is important, particularly in plans for women and the family. The only remedy for that can come about by candid discussion and purposeful dialogue.

The question that we are facing now is not a question of one man or one woman. It is the question of men and women together; it is a question for families; it is a question for society.

Fayzah al-Dabbagh:

First of all, qualified Saudi women can actually participate in [the process of] planning development programs, and they can become members of committees that meet and consider plans by utilizing close circuit television. Asking women to give their opinions and suggestions in writing is not enough. Women's opinions and suggestions must be looked into; they must be studied and implemented.

Second, qualified Saudi women are to be given the opportunity to work along with qualified men on the basis of cooperation and understanding. The powers of each are to be defined so that supervision and planning would not be assigned to men while women would be tied down with implementation. This is because women experience the climate of work; they are the ones who face matters and are in touch with problems. They also have the qualifications and the experience [with which they] can make a major contribution to both planning and implementation. Such cooperation would do away with the duplication that is noticeable at work as well as the duplication of responsibility between the female staff and the male staff. Neither one would supervise the other. Instead, they would cooperate [to accomplish] what is best [for the country]. The male staff would help and assist the female staff.

Third, qualified women are to be given the power that is compatible with the responsibilities assigned to them. They are to be given that power which would enable them to utilize all their energies to make a more effective contribution.

Fourth, these qualified women are to get more support which would help them do their jobs and fulfill their responsibilities.

Fifth, conventions and training programs on the highest levels are to be held occasionally to upgrade the standards of these qualified women and to put them in touch with the most modern scientific methods and advanced opinions in their areas of work.

Finally I would say that our dear country needs the efforts of every individual in it. Our country now has many qualified women who are anxious to make a contribution. With the grace of God and thanks to education, which is spreading, and the care of officials, which is growing, the numbers of these women are growing every day. An outlet must be found for these qualified women so they can work in

an atmosphere of responsibility, appreciation, encouragement and guidance, which would help them perform their mission and utilize all their energies to make a contribution.

Dr Fatimah Nasif:

If qualified women are given an opportunity to participate seriously and officially, their contribution will be more effective [than it is now], and it will be compatible with their present role [in society].

Lawlawah Ibrahim al-'Imari:

It would be wonderful if a committee or a board of women specializing in various fields were formed and if that committee or board were to discuss the career problems of women in light of what is available for them now and what they wish to accomplish in the area of participation. Women would like to participate in a manner that would be compatible with their experiences and their qualifications. A report from that committee or board would then be submitted to the Ministry of Planning, or female deputies for committee members would be appointed to take part in formulating the plan. And why not, as long as the objective is to serve the homeland in a more comprehensive way so as to meet current needs in all administrative and executive operations? Everyone, including men and women would contribute because active participation and self-reliance would re-inforce the principle and achieve progress.

Shu'a' al-Manqur:

I believe that when specialized committees are formed in all areas of women's employment, qualified women can participate more effectively in proportion to their present role of assuming responsibility for implementation. These committees would submit valuable reports whose views would be reinforced by the support of competent authorities. Women's contributions then can bring about the requirements of life and stay in step with [the country's] blessed progress.

Dr Thurayya al-'Arid al-Dabbagh:

It is my hope that women will be given the opportunity to be trained in the areas of administration and planning on a high, specialized level. [It is also my hope] that greater opportunities will be created for women to make contributions and to participate in building their country. I have no doubt that women will rise to fulfill the responsibilities with which they have been charged.

Layla 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Hasan:

Women can participate more effectively when they are given opportunities to plan and to put those plans into action. When women are given such powers as those that would make it easier for them to carry out projects, they will become aware of applications, and they will also become aware of the positive and negative consequences of those applications.

It is my opinion that the Institute of Public Management can make a contribution with the resources and experiences that are available in it. The institute can

define the status of working women by cooperating with some competent government agencies in doing the following:

1. It can make a detailed listing of the female work force in various areas and sectors.
2. It can compare responsibilities and powers in supervisory and leadership positions. This would include not only a theoretical comparison conducted in light of the text of rules and regulations, but it must extend to a study of the actual facts and the various practices that impede women from exercising their powers.
3. It can identify other impediments that have a negative effect on women's job performance.
4. It can suggest the ways and means by which the standard of working women's job performance can be improved and upgraded.

Dr Zaynab al-Dabbagh:

These qualified women--and they are there--can participate more effectively if they are given an opportunity to do so, if we believe fully in God and if we were to do what He commanded us to do. God Almighty said, "Conduct [your] affairs by mutual consent" [al-Shura: 38]. Women can participate more effectively also if we obey the command of God's noble messenger: "You are all caretakers, and each one of you is responsible for his charge."

Dr Bilqays Nasir:

There is no doubt that planning for development programs requires competence, experience and know-how. We have, thank God, qualified Saudi women who can do that. Also some of these women do not lack experience and training. [For other women] acquiring professional experience and precise specialized training will not come about haphazardly. It would be accomplished according to certain plans and programs in which qualified women would actively participate to achieve the standard at which they can make a knowledgeable contribution to development programs.

I hope that qualified women will be given opportunities to gain such experiences so that their contributions can grow and prosper, particularly in those areas that have to do with women. This is because women are more knowledgeable about their own requirements.

Dr Ibtisam Halawani:

Women's participation will become effective when qualified women can start out with the feeling of having real responsibility in this field. This feeling will not come out of a vacuum. It will be created by [demonstrating] a large measure of confidence in women's abilities and accordingly giving them an opportunity after that to make a greater contribution.

Women here are more knowledgeable [than men are] about particulars that pertain

to them. Because of their experiences on the job, because of their dealings with other women and because they face numerous problems that impede the course of their work, women fully understand the intrinsic factors of matters, and they can readily understand those points that are supposed to proceed on another course. Women are also more knowledgeable about the nature of their needs and about what is compatible with their abilities, whose makeup differs from that of other abilities. Although early in the years of their employment women were not able to depict their status and their needs properly, the passage of these years and the growing number of women who have been participating in different activities have drawn the broad lines for a positive framework [that defines women's status and their needs]. It is within that framework that women can probe and can contribute valuable opinions so that resources would not be wasted before the real benefit from women's work can be achieved.

Amjad Rida:

The answer to that question forces us to make the following statement:

Is the role of women secondary or primary? If officials recognize that the role women play is a principal role, women can then participate effectively, and they can offer their suggestions and their plans with awareness, knowledge and experience. Women can offer their suggestions and plans to the responsible agency which would adopt them. The implementation of plans made by women would reflect the faith that a responsible agency has in women's contributions and in the fact that the role they are playing is a principal role that is indispensable to development. Therefore I am hoping that this faith will no longer be an exception and that it will become the rule so that women can participate effectively without having to wait for men to have faith in them. We hope this will become the rule and the law so that women would not be in a position of waiting for responsibility to be bestowed on them, but that instead they would be in a position to grant that responsibility and to be held accountable for their responsibilities. Human beings cannot make contributions and participate effectively unless they have been given the power to do so. But that power has to be responsible and not superficial. Women are not to appear as though they were making plans when they are actually serving as mere tools for implementation.

Wafiqah al-Dakhil:

I believe that this matter is attributable first to women themselves. If women prove their worth and persuade officials that they are capable of making plans, they will undoubtedly be assigned the tasks of participating in planning.

Second, [I believe this matter is attributable] to officials. Now that women have been given momentous responsibilities and have taken charge of these responsibilities, delivering a performance that is not less than that of their colleagues, the men in implementation, why shouldn't they participate in planning to the same extent and as unequivocally as men do? Why shouldn't women participate in planning as long as there are qualified women whose scientific degrees and experiences in their areas of work are no less than those of men?

Why aren't these qualifications utilized for the public welfare of this country?

Maznah al-'Amari

There are some suggestions that I believe will contribute to increasing the effectiveness of women's actual participation in planning.

A supreme women's commission is to be established; it would do the following:

1. Conduct studies and research that would form the basis for formulating programs and policies to ensure the active participation of women so that greater accomplishments can be achieved in development projects.
2. Help design research whose aim is to chart changes in women's conditions and [describe] the effect of economic, social and technological changes on women's lives.
3. Introduce training programs for women to enable them to conduct research, assume the burden of leadership roles in their society and increase their earning power.
4. Study the conditions of working women, the needs of the family and the problems that women face.
5. Coordinate efforts with authorized agencies to make plans for the utilization of women's capabilities and energies in the next stage of human [resources] development. This commission is to function as a body that supervises and monitors implementation.

Dr Suhad Bahajri:

Qualified women can participate effectively [in the process of planning] if faculty members were treated as faculty members and if they were asked to participate in those joint committees in which they can participate.

At present, however, participation is not easy because the resources are not available in the division of women students. The number of faculty members in that division is small, and the responsibilities that are assigned to them are heavy. At the present time this reduces their participation. On the other hand, many women are lecturers despite their competence and even though numerous executive tasks are assigned to them. The evaluation of a [female] lecturer is different from the evaluation of a female faculty member. Therefore, executive tasks are assigned to them, and they have to take orders or instructions from planning committees which do not try to get their opinions on anything.

The participation of qualified women will only come about when women insist without fanaticism and improvisation that they participate. The participation of women will come about when women study any proposal carefully and then submit it to higher authorities. They would then discuss the matter rationally because no one can turn a deaf ear to the voice of reason.

Dr 'Aishah Ahmad al-Husayni:

Saudi women would be making a mistake if they expect men to invite them to

participate in formulating public policies for development or surmounting the obstacles that led to this lack of participation. That day will not come just as it has not come in any other society.

Women are not to forget that the evolution of administrative organizations that carry out planning operations and other administrative functions came as a response to the conditions and needs of men because men needed to assume responsibility for developing these systems and administrative sciences and also because that responsibility was in their hands. These factors can be clarified by saying that men created organizations in their own image and in accordance with their needs and circumstances. They did not give women opportunities to participate in developing these systems. This is because women have only been working for a short period of time, and they have not been involved in management for too long. Therefore, ever since they were formed, these organizations have not been able to accommodate women, and it is difficult for them to have the necessary flexibility to make such accommodation due to the obstacles that I previously referred to. Much time will be required to develop that flexibility.

Saudi women, like other women in any other society, will not get to participate in formulating policies and development plans unless they can persuade others of their worth and the extent to which they can assume that responsibility. In order for them to do this, women must take several measures to sharpen their abilities and perfect their competence. These measures may be summarized as follows:

1. Women are to devote attention to scientific research, and specialized agencies are to devote attention to statistics, to the status of women and to the extent of their participation. Weaknesses are to be pointed out more than praise so that researchers can find solutions to these weaknesses.
2. Attention is to be devoted to promoting our culture, our customs, our traditions and our Islamic laws by firmly establishing the positive and honorable aspects [of our traditions and laws]. Attention is to be devoted in particular to subjects such as Islam's fairness to women and their work; [efforts] to enhance the worth of women; and [efforts] to stay away from ideas that slipped into our midst in the past. Consequently, we would not be unfair to ourselves and to our history.
3. Attention must be devoted to studying those areas where there is an urgent need for women's employment, and attention must be devoted to encouraging women to make an active contribution proportionate to the needs of society.
4. Officials responsible for training are to give all individuals in society--men and women--the opportunity to get training. Training courses are to be held for officials in management to help them develop management skills, which have to do with formulating policies and making decisions and plans. These training courses would help officials in management acquire other administrative skills that would help them develop and grow.
5. [Attention is to be devoted to] awareness campaigns. It is the duty of women's societies to pursue new directions and not to restrict themselves exclusively to charitable work. Instead, women have to participate by contacting concerned

agencies and considering the need these agencies have for the services of women. They have to show their skills and their potential in such participation.

Ultimately, working women must become aware of the fact that they are facing two challenges. First, they have to prove to society that they can assume that responsibility. Working women are always being tested for success and failure. The other challenge that working women have to face is that of fulfilling their responsibilities on the job and working successfully with their bosses as well as their subordinates.

It is burdensome to work under the pressure of such challenges. There is a big difference between proving that one is successful--something that is required of men--and proving that one is not a failure--which is what is required from women.

I conclude my comments by citing the words of Almighty God: "Their Lord answers them saying, 'I will deny no man or woman among you the reward of their labours. You are the offspring of one another' (Aal 'Imran: 195)." God the Great spoke the truth.

[The Third Question]: What is your evaluation of the powers available to you compared with the responsibilities that are assigned to you?

The answers were as follows:

Faridah al-Hasun: In order for us to make an evaluation, we must first find the standard by means of which work that is assigned [to women] can be measured and the extent to which the powers granted to them are of service to the completion of that work [determined]. The function of a guidance director may be summarized in four points.

These are: planning, organization, guidance and supervision.

The guidance director is responsible in general for making the plans that are necessary to carry out the objectives of education in the schools that are subordinate to her. [She is responsible for making plans] to carry out the objectives of each stage of education and each curriculum. She is also responsible for translating those objectives into conduct. Accordingly, she is the one who has to formulate policies and approve measures that are necessary to bring this about. Regarding organization the guidance director is responsible for the placement of every employee in a suitable place in accordance with her potential, capabilities and inclinations so that harmony and success at work can be achieved, and that would bring about the total success of the educational effort. This can be done by nominating suitable candidates for administrative and professional position in the educational system. A guidance director must also set the timetables that are necessary for the completion of educational plans and of cultural, social, physical and religious activities that pertain to these educational plans.

The guidance director is also responsible for providing direction and guidance to her staff. She is responsible for improving morale among her staff, finding out about shortcomings or deviations and taking action to correct them.

Regarding supervision, it is the duty of the guidance director to determine standards of supervision and the means by which these standards can be achieved.

It follows that these responsibilities require that the necessary powers for their implementation be granted, particularly if we take into consideration the fact that the educational process is a dynamic process that changes as the educational situation changes. The educational situation is subject to numerous factors which cannot be predicted in advance. These [changing factors] require prompt solutions and settlements since the time set for education is relatively short and the results of education tend to be cumulative. Thus, if solutions are delayed, the results of education would be poor, and the opposite of that is true. In the present situation the powers that are available to us are few, and they have to be reconsidered by officials.

Fayzah al-Dabbagh:

Unfortunately, the powers [we have] are little; they are hardly enough to regulate matters at work and ensure that operations continue smoothly. These powers are hardly enough to enable the guidance director to meet fully the heavy responsibilities that are given to her, to give her enough flexibility to act in her position, or to preserve for her the power and awe of her position as a responsible official in a position of leadership. The guidance director is always being called upon to check with the supervisory agency to settle matters at work. This causes delays, and it embarrasses her in front of the public with whom she deals. This also makes it possible for problems to surface and to grow until a settlement and a solution for them can be found. Such solutions, [when they come], may prove to be unsuitable. The responsibilities of a guidance director are heavy and the powers, unfortunately, are few. Operations get lost between this and that. May God help qualified women continue carrying on their mission, and May God reconcile officials to having more confidence in those qualified women so they can allow them to have more power that would make constructive work possible, helping it to prosper and grow, God willing.

Dr Layla al-Hasan:

Balance is lacking between the scope and range of responsibilities with which women are charged and the powers that they have. This is quite evident in some supervisory and leadership positions. This imbalance and incompatibility between powers and responsibilities leads to the appearance of negative factors in planning, programming and stages of execution.

Princess Sarah bint Muhammad:

This is neither a matter nor a problem of power, which will come in time.

The problem is rather limited to the development of human resources among women who have the education and the experience to assume the responsibility of work and to handle that power which will come eventually.

We must refer here to the fact that women, because of their circumstances, are subordinate to men. A married woman can leave with her husband, [and an unmarried woman] can leave with her father or her brother if those men change their place

of work. These women then leave a vacancy which creates a vacuum that is felt and a deficiency that is obvious in the agency where they used to work. This is because the number of working women is small compared to the number of working men.

But when the human resources development policy begins to yield a return by providing the required number of qualified women, it will become easy to fill the shortage. We must refer to the fact that men have had an edge over women in school enrollment to get an education. Men have also been given more opportunities than women to gain experience in numerous areas.

When we consider the number of women who graduate from universities every year--in addition to the fact that higher education has become accessible to them at universities in the country and abroad when they travel with their husbands--what we see gives us hope that this problem will be solved. [We are referring to] the problem of developing human resources among women who are educated and experienced.

This will further cooperation between the two sexes in government sectors, each in his or her area of expertise.

Let me say quite candidly that there is full cooperation between us, as the Office of Supervision and Social Organizations, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The female employees in that office are subordinate to that ministry. [Let me also say] that it is possible to give women more power, but it is the limited number of working women and the fact that most of them need experience that limits that.

Shu'a' al-Manqur:

The burden of responsibility is often greater than the actual power.

Dr Firyal Satitiyah:

The responsibilities that are assigned [to women] are greater than the powers [given to them].

Dr Amal Muhammad Shata:

I believe the powers [that are given to women] are limited. For example, I can say that the experience I have gained all these years in my work in the area of school health has enabled me to formulate opinions and suggestions that could be of considerable benefit in many areas. For example, I can authorize sick leave; authorize care for pregnant employees during the last month of their pregnancies; authorize maternity leave; and also authorize psychological and physical care for students. But the only thing I can do is take up these matters [with others]; I do not have the right to make decisions, nor do I have the authority to change decisions that have been made.

Khayriyah al-Saqqaf:

A. When I was working as deputy dean for student affairs at King Sa'ud University, I was given at that time powers which I personally was able to develop in

accordance with the work I did. It has been my experience that power is to be taken. Power is granted when a person can stand firmly in the face of what his capabilities qualify him for and when he or she is able to persuade [others], not so much by words as much as by actions, [that he or she can handle that power. I came to believe that when I was entrusted with power that was not commensurate with the responsibility that I undertook at first. I think, however, that a woman who stands tall in facing up to her responsibilities commands for herself a position wherein she would be given appropriate power, particularly if officials with her have something more than a superficial understanding of the competence of that individual who is doing the work. The fact that I am a woman did not influence that.

I felt at that time that I was the dean for the affairs of women students. I was directly responsible for them, and I was able through that position to broaden the establishment and development of women students' projects. [In that position] I found much support, backing and flexibility.

B. I find that the power which is available to me in my work as editor-in-chief of AL-RIYAD is proportionate to the responsibility that has been entrusted to me. The range of that responsibility goes beyond the journalistic and intellectual sphere and beyond the merely administrative. My responsibilities go beyond that and include encouraging [people to develop their] aptitudes, bringing hidden aptitudes to light, giving opportunities to young talented people and standing behind the young to forestall any mistakes they might make. That alone is a major responsibility; it is an important and a far-reaching responsibility. What AL-RIYAD offers every day under women's bylines is enough to paint a clear picture of the magnitude of the responsibility and the power [we have].

What I think is impeding me from exercising my power in this field is a matter that has to do with two inherent matters. One of them is the inherent nature of women whose work is removed from printing operations and supervising execution. Sometimes, I find myself in a position where I am condemned by female editors who then turn to the [male] editor-in-chief [with their grievances]. That in itself neither diminishes the importance of the power [I have] nor does it limit that power. The editor-in-chief is a flexible person who has absolute confidence in those people to whom he has delegated responsibility. He does not act without deliberating with others. That in itself reinforces the responsibility [we have] and confirms the power [we exercise].

The second inherent matter has to do with the nature of journalism and with its changing nature. Developments occur regardless of the working hours women observe, and these do not go beyond half a day for colleagues in the newspaper.

Amjad Rida:

The powers that have been granted [to women] may not have been in step with the responsibilities entrusted to them except in a few areas. In other areas the powers women had had lagged behind their responsibilities. As far as I am concerned, I do not deny that both cases apply to me. That was true of my case in the past when I assumed supervisory responsibility for the Culture Section, and it is true now that I have assumed supervisory responsibility for the women's and children's section. I was given the power to make the editorial changes I wished

to make in both sections. But as far as administrative matters are concerned, the power I have has not kept pace with the responsibility, particularly since all workers in the organization--and I am one of them--are subject to other administrative factors. I do hope that in the future administrative matters will be in step with editorial matters as far as [the matter of] power is concerned.

Dalal 'Aziz Diya':

Regarding my evaluation of the power that is available to me, I did not notice that there was any difference between me and any of my male colleagues who hold the same position I do and who have the same qualifications I have. In other words, in my capacity as an official responsible for women's programs, I check some matters with my immediate supervisor just as any male colleague would.

Lawlawah al-'Amari:

I believe that I am one of the few directors given power that is proportionate to the magnitude of responsibilities entrusted to them. To many other men and women my situation is considered to be more than a stroke of good fortune. This is because my superior is an understanding man who shuns bureaucracy. Unfortunately, this opportunity is not available to everyone. The system applies to everyone whether the director is a man or a woman. Centralization is the disease of the Saudi administration. Every director complains about it. The bureaucracy is deadly, and everything has to be done on paper. These papers are shuffled from one director to a higher director until they reach the central director. It is after that that a decision on taking action is made. This red tape exists in all administrative positions in government. Changing such a wasteful system is urgently needed. We do not need this bureaucracy particularly since we are in a construction stage. This centralization which has become entrenched in the system makes junior managers feel they are not qualified to take action. How then can we improve our productivity and double our energies and contributions if we are haunted by the feeling that there is a lack of confidence in us? In addition, this system gives lazy managers an opportunity to use the bureaucracy and centralization as an excuse for their indolence and a justification for their neglect.

You can see that I am answering your question with a question. Is there an answer?

Dr Suhad Bahajri:

I am not very familiar with the powers I have because they change every day as the situation changes at the university. Financially, my powers are less than those of male deputies. Also their ability to move about freely among the departments of the university gives them more power [than I have]. They enforce that power with the assistance of the administrative staff they have but which we do not have.

Dr Zaynab al-Dabbagh:

The power I can exercise is no more than 25 percent of that which is available [to my male counterparts]. This is not commensurate with being responsible for six branches and many facilities at the university, such as a child care facility for people affiliated with the university, restaurants and many other services that I hope will be realized for this university.

Dr Fatimah Nasif:

The power that is available [to us] is much less than the magnitude of the responsibilities that are entrusted to us.

Wafiqah al-Dakhil:

Actually, officials in the Public Civil Service Bureau are pursuing a serene and balanced policy in dealing with questions of women's employment. They take into account various religious precepts and Arab social rules.

The powers that have been available to me are subject to the Islamic and Arab status of the country. Regardless of the magnitude of responsibility that has been entrusted to me, my powers do not go beyond [the boundaries set by those guidelines].

The powers that have been entrusted to me within those boundaries were gradually increased as the magnitude of the responsibility entrusted to me grew over a period of 10 years in the past.

I would have hoped, however, that the powers entrusted to me would have been more clearly defined.

Dr Ibtisam Halawani:

If we were to consider the not-too-distant past, we would find that working women here had no power. Working women were merely machines that carried out to the letter the policies that were formulated for them and the orders that were issued to them, even those that had to do with the most sensitive matters pertaining to their work. Today, however, working women have a small measure of power, particularly here at the university where women exercise several powers in connection with their work. This is the general view, but if we wanted to evaluate the power [women have] in relation to the magnitude of responsibilities, [we would find that] there is a major difference between the two. [Women's] responsibilities here are heavy, but their powers, particularly those that have to do with fundamental academic matters and those that have some bearing on administrative matters, are areas where women still play a secondary role to a certain extent.

Despite everything that has been given to qualified women so far, they are still restricted in many ways despite the fact that they have a certain desire to make a positive contribution. The mere presence of that desire is a major step on the road to improvement.

Princess Munirah bint Musa'id:

As I mentioned previously, most of us are in executive not planning positions. It follows then that this curtails [our participation in] the decision-making process which is crucial in management.

We thus find that there are restrictions on [our] powers which are already limited. When one becomes an official, one finds oneself beset by these restrictions and unable to act freely in a manner that would ensure smooth and easy

operations. We need to take a stand so that the administrative process can proceed on a course that is smooth and sound. May God grant us success.

Asma' Baharmaz:

I can say that compared with the responsibilities that have been placed on my shoulders, I have absolutely no power. I am expected to manage the branch for female students financially and administratively. It is known that that branch has no less than 5,000 students and 500 female employees. We are always finding someone to keep us from exercising those powers that have been given to us. I find myself to be like someone sitting on a chair with her hands pulled behind her back and tied with a strong rope. The situation being what it is, it follows that we would find that the participation of women in planning in general and in those areas that concern their sisters [in particular] is neither organized nor endowed with an official character. Such participation consists of individual initiatives undertaken by officials in their personal capacity. It is no secret to you that the effectiveness of such initiatives depends on the extent to which those to whom these initiatives are directed find them convincing. Despite their proven record of competence in management and in assuming responsibility, women have not been given an adequate opportunity to express their opinions on matters, even those that have to do with their activities and services. There is, for example, the case of the royal grant to open a public library for female students in Jeddah. Although the agency that made the application for that library is the division of female students at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz University, I found out that we were summarily dismissed when the time came for implementing the project. According to what I know, and that is based on what is being published in newspapers, the building has been designed and a location for it has been determined. I can almost see it now in my mind's eye that the entire project will be completed and we will not even be asked, not even out of courtesy, to express an opinion on the matter.

When women take delivery of the project and when its management is assigned to them, they will find themselves responsible for something that has nothing to do with their needs and their problems. And then they will begin the task of adjusting to an accomplished fact that has been imposed on them.

Dr 'Aishah al-Mani':

At the present time women in the kingdom have not yet held positions of responsibility in the real sense. Women are holding mid-level management positions. It is known in government circles that people in mid-level positions do not have the powers that are proportionate to the responsibilities they have because power is concentrated in the top positions.

When a woman holds a top level position, she does not have in most cases the power that goes with that position. In other words, her power is almost nonexistent. This is because the kingdom is like other developing countries where women are still charged and commissioned to carry out a variety of tasks. However, when one considers the extent to which women participate in planning and decision-making, one finds that they are absent. This means that women are still viewed as individuals who carry out tasks.

Dr Bilqays Nasir:

The powers that are associated with the responsibilities of my job are of two kinds:

1. The power to make decisions.
2. The power to make proposals and suggestions to the agencies that are responsible for making decisions.

[I exercise] less of the first power than I do of the second; the ratio of the first power [I exercise] may be one third of the second. A reasonable amount of the second power I exercise is well received, and favorable decisions are made by the competent authorities, but these decisions are not made as promptly as they should be. The bureaucracy does its part in delaying matters. Some of these powers could have been granted to me to ensure promptness and flexibility in the delivery of services by the office.

Dr Samirah Islam:

I will preface my answer to the question with a remark that will clarify the evaluation that is being called for.

The responsibility has always been heavy and fluctuating. There is no recognized standard for measuring responsibility, which is based on an individual's evaluation and outlook.

There is responsibility which leaves one with no time for rest or sleep. The same responsibility may give another person an opportunity to enjoy everything he fancies, and it may give him the opportunity to discuss matters. Similarly, the dimensions and the magnitude of power is always [mere] ink on paper. Power is given in theory to any individual who works and who has a responsibility. Power is given to individuals so they can use it to fulfill their responsibilities successfully. Power is also used to justify [failure] when an individual claims that he had responsibilities but no power. Power then is the means by which a person who has responsibility can fulfill that responsibility. That person has the right to exercise his power to fulfill his responsibility successfully. A person can dilute his power when he looks around him and finds himself lacking the power to work or fulfill his responsibility. He would thus find enough excuses to shirk that responsibility and blame his superiors for giving him responsibilities without the powers that should go with them. Power then is the favorable side of responsibilities. It is the prize that always creates friction. Everyone competes with everyone else to broaden the range of his power.

As I mentioned previously, just as power is the means by which the doors of discussion are opened, the care with which an official grants power makes him hesitate in granting [others] power. He limits granting others power to maintain the course of operations in accordance with his views, even though he may have entrusted his subordinates with responsibilities.

A quick view of what I previously mentioned enables me to say that I have no power, but I will admit that I always find the means for fulfilling my responsibilities fully. I believe I accomplish that in a manner that would please God Almighty. But this costs me a great deal of effort and lost time which could have been better spent in completing other tasks.

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PROVINCES REPORT ON CROP PRODUCTION, PLANNING

Hims Production, Obstacles

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 26 Sep 83 p 4

[Article: "Cultivation Is More Intensive, Violations Are Being Combated, and Mechanization Is Being Used In the Cultivation Of Sugar Beets"]

[Text] Hims--The Hims chapter of the agricultural committee has authorized the farm production plan for the governorate for the coming 1984 season. It covers an area of 4,222,338 hectares in the governorate, of which 365,747 hectares are arable. Of this amount 45,403 hectares are irrigated and 320,344 hectares are unirrigated. Meadows and pasture land constitute 2,753,986 hectares, and 121,919 hectares are forest.

The plan for the coming season includes 4,290 dunams more irrigated land than last year. It also includes increased fruit tree and forest acreage. An additional 1,050 dunams will be cultivated with fruit trees, while an additional 990 hectares will be afforested at new locations.

A correspondent for AL-BA'TH has learned that the question of more intensive cultivation was taken into consideration when the plan was being prepared inasmuch as it calls for production levels 31 percent higher throughout the governorate.

Consideration was also given to increasing the total area of wheat, winter vegetable, yellow corn and fall potato cultivation. The plan calls for increasing the growing area of yellow corn used for fodder by 659 hectares. In a series of meetings held under the chairmanship of the governor of H-ms, the farm board decided to restrict marketing of yellow corn to the fodder organization, and to emphasize to the district farm committees that the provisions of law 14 of 1975 would be rigorously applied to prevent violations of the plan's implementation.

The board also decided to ask the farmers' federation and the Hims Sugar Company to provide an area of 1,000 dunams in the village of al-Ghantu for the purpose of carrying out experiments in the application of mechanized methods of agriculture to the sugar beet crop. A decision was also made to ask the State Sugar Company to contract for the entire

area of 50,000 dunams scheduled for sugar beet cultivation. The company will also be asked to advise the technical services office not to cut off the flow of irrigation water before 1 November this year to enable cultivation and irrigation to continue in the areas cultivated with sugar beets for the fall crop cycle, which amount to 20,000 dunams.

A decision was also made to emphasize to all parties the importance of providing whatever is necessary for agricultural production at the appropriate time.

In order to implement the proposed plan the desert affairs office in Hims is currently making preparations for the Jabal Abu Rujmayn project in the Syrian Desert. It is to become a desert preserve. It will be put to use, and terebinth trees, Swedish trees and oak trees will be planted there. Other vegetation will be planted on this mountain after field studies have confirmed the success of agriculture in the desert, and specifically at this site.

Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Factory

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Oct 83 p 4

[Article by Naji As'ad: "Dayr al-Zawr Plant Processes 215,000 Tons of Sugar Beets This Year; It Will Conduct Tests To Utilize the Plant's Capacities During Idle Periods"]

[Text] In 1981 the Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Factory completed its operations tests. Production testing was begun in the following year since that provides the best practical results in capacity utilization and optimal processing. In 1982, the same year in which the production tests were completed, the plan called for processing 110,000 tons of sugar beets, of which only 46,000 tons were from Dayr al-Zawr.

Despite that, the workers and technicians were able to process a total of 138,000 tons, most of which was brought to the factory from the districts of al-Ghab and Hims.

From this quantity of sugar beets 13,752 tons of white sugar were produced. As a result, the production tests and yield at this factory were better than those at most other companies.

The Factory's Production Plans Call For Processing 180,000 Tons This Year

The director general of the Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Company, eng Tahsin al-Hajj Muhammad, said: "Our plan for 1983 called for processing 180,500 tons of sugar beets of which 90,000 tons were supposed to have been provided from an area estimated at 65,000 dunams scheduled to grow this crop in the Governorate of Dayr al-Zawr. A yield of 1,400 kg per dunam was anticipated.

"The remaining quantity scheduled for processing in the plan would be brought from the districts of al-Ghab and Hims. But what happened this year as in previous years was that the agencies concerned cultivated only 32,000 dunams, which yielded 57,500 tons over the previous year, despite the fact that insufficient acreage was cultivated."

A Look At Sugar Beet Cultivation In Dayr al-Zawr

The company's director general and Eng Ahmad al-Hasan, the company's director of sugar beets, spoke about the farmers' reluctance to plant this crop. They said: "Three official agencies--the company, the agricultural bureau in Dayr al-Zawr, and the general federation of farmers--and the private sector are overseeing sugar beet cultivation. Each agency has its own role in this connection. But the decisive factor continues primarily to be getting the farmers to increase the acreage of this crop. Unfortunately, our farmers in Dayr al-Zawr consider the sugar beet either a secondary crop or one imposed on them. In 1978, the first year the crop was planted, the farmers faced numerous obstacles in marketing, and the land cultivated by the farmers was unfit because the farmers, who were discontent with this crop, sowed their seeds on land that was salty. The plan that year called for cultivating 5,000 dunams, and despite the farmers' lack of experience with sugar beet cultivation the results were satisfactory. But the problem of marketing, as we have mentioned, made the farmers reluctant to plant sugar beets the following year, 1979, and in 1981. In the days after it began operating, the factory received 7,000 tons from the farmers in Dayr al-Zawr, and in 1982 it received 46,000 tons. The sugar beet began to find a favorable response from the farmers of Dayr al-Zawr and their colleagues in al-Ghab after they became aware of the tangible returns from this crop, and after operations of the sugar factories became stabilized and fears about factory shutdowns disappeared.

The agricultural engineers who supervise the growing of this crop emphasize the excellent potential in Dayr al-Zawr for developing sugar beet cultivation because of the high level of sweetness of the sugar beets, with an estimated average of 16 percent, as well as yields in certain areas as high as 6 tons per dunam.

Whatever the opinions about this crop may be, the experience of the farmers in Dayr al-Zawr cannot be compared with that of the farmers in al-Ghab who have been growing this crop for the last 15 years.

All of this reinforces the movement to expand this crop and facilitate implementation of the agricultural plan as long as greater efforts are made by the individuals concerned, particularly the Dayr al-Zawr bureau of agriculture.

The Plant Processed 215,000 Tons This Season

Up to the end of the current year's processing cycle the Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Factory processed an estimated 215,000 tons of sugar beets, of which 168,000 tons were brought in from the sugar beet growing areas of Hims, Salhab and al-Ghab. The yield was 9.6 [tons per dunam] and the average sugar content was 12 to 14 percent.

The director general explained that this low yield was due to the fact that the quantities of sugar beets that reached the factory exceeded its daily processing capacity, which is about 3,250 tons a day. This caused the sugar beets being transported from Hims, Salhab and al-Ghab to remain in their containers and trucks for 72 hours, resulting in confusion during the processing. The primary reason for this was the failure to implement a program for transporting the crop from the western districts to the factory properly.

The Technical Cadre

In 1982 there were 81 foreign experts in the plant. This number shrank to 25 in 1983. This is an indication of the efforts that have been made by the local workers to gain expertise and to operate the plant despite the fact that they are operating the equipment for the first time.

During its seasonal operating period the factory requires 527 workers.

But there are 393 workers concerned. The number of those who actually keep up with their work is 253. The company suffers from a shortage of chemists who are specialists in sugar processing, and technicians other than those who have recently gained their expertise.

The basic [labor] requirements of the Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Company and other new companies have not yet been issued. Rather, plans for labor force requirements have been devised on an annual basis in light of the company's requirements.

On the basis of the union committee's role in seeking to provide better working conditions, and the projects it has undertaken toward this end, Mr Walid Junayd, the shop steward in the company, said: "A social service fund was established at the beginning of 1983 for the purpose of providing complete medical care for the families of the workers. In addition, a consumer organization has been opened, clothing has been provided and transportation has been provided for the workers. An employee housing project was planned a while ago, but so far nothing has come of it." The shop steward added that with regard to the workers' material compensation there is no schedule of compensation for particular job categories or skills, and there are no incentives. Despite the fact that the parties concerned approved of the project, it has so far not been put into effect.

A New Experiment

The sugar factory operates on a seasonal basis. This consists of only 100 days of operation, plus 100 days of maintenance in which there are opportunities for [installing] spare parts and [utilizing] experts whenever necessary. This means that there are 160 days in which the operating capacity is wasted. In this connection certain advanced countries utilize this capacity by establishing small processing units along with the sugar factories, such as an enzyme or alcohol factory.

What have we accomplished in this area at the new plants? So far we have not achieved anything, and the power of the above-mentioned plant is still being wasted.

Because of the need to utilize the workers' capacity in the Dayr al-Zawr Sugar Company significant steps have been taken. Once the plant's comprehensive maintenance program has been implemented workshops will be set up for carpentry, smithery, electrical work, mechanical work and welding. These workshops will serve the public sector exclusively. Partnership between the company and the workers' union is based on the return of a portion of the revenues to the workers through a social service fund. This program was implemented last year, and the workers received 25,000 Syrian pounds in compensation. The workshops have implemented several tasks in the company.

An Oven For Drying Liquid Residue

During the production testing the oven was not able to dry the quantity of liquid residue produced as a byproduct of processing 4,000 tons of sugar beets over a period of 5 days. The unit was therefore rejected after negotiations with the Czechs in which they were requested to re-equip the oven. They were required to halt equipping during the current year. But because certain equipment was unavailable they were unable to put the oven into operation this season. The Czechs requested a delay until next year when the production testing will be carried out.

A portion of the liquid residue currently produced is being used by cooperative associations to raise sheep. It also uses a portion from two suppliers of sugar beet products according to their needs. Although the fodder company and the General Federation of Farmers were prepared to receive the entire production quantity, because of the absence of the dried product they declined to receive them.

9123

CSO: 4404/206

AL-BA'TH CRITICIZES RUMSFELD MISSION

PM081437 Damascus AL BA'TH in Arabic 1 Feb 84 p 2

[Jubarah al-Barghuthi article: "Rumsfeld's Activity a Cover for U.S., Israeli Intentions"]

[Text] U.S. Presidential Envoy Donald Rumsfeld is moving along the lines drawn for him under the U.S.-Middle Eastern policy. He sometimes warns, through U.S. spokesmen, of serious consequences if his mission fails, and other times he pulls U.S. decisions out of his briefcase for U.S. agents, such as the Jordanian and Egyptian regimes, to endorse.

Every time a U.S. envoy resumes his diplomatic mission the hostile and threatening tones of the U.S. officials or their allies in Israel are intensified. Now, as the U.S. envoy continues his tour, Yitzhaq Shamir does not hesitate to utter statements which run contrary to all peace notions, and he is not embarrassed to declare that the United States supports and backs what he says.

So, how can Rumsfeld possibly defend the U.S. anti-Arab and anti-peace policy and what possible guarantees can he offer when he knows that his mission is a trick designed to mislead and his country's strategy is based on force.

A few days ago Shamir declared that the occupied Arab territories are Israeli territories, that the Jews have a divine right to settle there, and that the U.S. Administration knows and supports that and cannot oppose it. This Zionist claim was timed to coincide with the implicit threats against Syria contained in the U.S. president's weekly speech and with the conclusion of the U.S.-Zionist meetings which concentrated on military issues and the need to eliminate the Syrian influence on the course of events in the region.

We do not believe that the U.S. presidential envoy is unaware of all this. As soon as he begins his moves in the region the U.S. 6th Fleet and military aircraft become active opposite and over Lebanon. If the United States is really serious about what it says, why does it couple its political moves with military moves?

Syria is very well aware of the nature and dimensions of the battle it is fighting and the caliber of the enemies it is confronting. That is why it

will not be an easy prey and it will not be taken by surprise. It also knows the sides which are committed to the U.S. designs and it knows that its own national weight is greater than all that and identifies more with the masses. Perhaps Rumsfeld himself and those defeated rulers realize this fact as much as the masses who are eager to wreak vengeance on the traitors and the renegades.

CSO: 4400/153

U.S. 'INTERVENTION' IN LEBANON DENOUNCED

GF030934 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 3 February (WAM)--The newspapers AL-ITTIHAD and AL-KHALIJ in their editorials today denounced the intervention of U.S. warships in Lebanese battles and their bombardment of the positions of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] in the mount and Beirut's southern suburbs. The two papers warned against the threat of escalation of U.S. military involvement in Lebanon and continuation of the war of liquidation that the United States, Israel, and their stooges are carrying out against the Lebanese people.

AL-ITTIHAD described this new intervention by U.S. warships in Lebanese battles as grave, because they did not only bombard the PSP's positions in the mount but also its positions in Beirut's southern suburbs. The paper described this bombardment as the culmination of the failure of the U.S. role in Lebanon. It noted that the Marines, which came to Lebanon in 1982 to establish what they called "peace and to provide stability," have become part of the U.S. problem in Lebanon.

AL-ITTIHAD expressed the conviction that the U.S. warships' bombardment of the Lebanese opposition's positions, amid the heated debate in the United States on the presence of the Marines, is an attempt to create an escalation of the military situation which will be the basis for resuming the dialogue in Lebanon which will probably achieve some sort of reconciliation, thus allowing U.S. President Reagan to use the Lebanon card in the upcoming presidential election. AL-ITTIHAD expressed the fear that Reagan would use the "Grenada technique" in Lebanon. However, it noted that the situation in Lebanon and the entire Arab homeland is different from that in Grenada. The paper warned the United States that any military escalation will only lead to a wider and more serious escalation.

The Ash-Shariqah based newspaper AL-KHALIJ said that the Arab country of Lebanon, a proud land of courageous people, will be subjected, in an even more brutal way than the bombardment by U.S. warships, to further attacks, because this is the means of forcing this zealous Arab people to bow to the U.S.-NATO-Israeli dictates.

AL-KHALIJ accused the United States, Israel and their stooges of launching a brutal war of liquidation against the Lebanese people, particularly in the southern suburbs and the mount.

Concluding, AL-KHALIJ emphasized that the U.S.-Israeli plot will fail to achieve its goals "because war on the mount is still fresh in memories, the Lebanese nationalists are still able to confront and resist any plots and those who began the war of liquidation a few days ago will reap what they sow because it is the aggressor who is more unjust."

CSO: 4400/153

WARNING AGAINST ESCALATION OF GULF WAR

GF040751 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 4 Feb 84

[From press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 February (WAM)--The newspaper AL-FAJR has asserted that only the superpowers will benefit from an escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war to the point where the Strait of Hormuz is closed. These powers are closely watching the situation in this vital region, waiting for any justification to intervene with their forces, the paper said.

AL-FAJR added: If Iran carried out such action, it will harm its own interest first of all because its oil and nonoil exports pass through this strait. "It is better for the Iranian administration to respond to mediation efforts being made by many countries and organizations to stop this war instead of escalating fighting in this complicated international situation."

The newspaper noted that the situation is becoming more serious day after day, a thing which threatens a possible confrontation between the superpowers and which will result in turning the region into a field of conflicts. The paper asserted that escalating fighting will not result in any victory for anyone because international balance will not allow this. "It should be understood by all that the superpowers want this war to be a war of attrition so that arms factories can continue work and so that the two countries' wealth might go to the factories of manufacturing and improving arms."

Concluding, AL-FAJR expressed the hope that the good offices committee will continue its efforts and that the two countries will begin negotiations to end this continuing devastation and end their differences in a way that would preserve each side's right so that the region's countries can live in peace and security.

CSO: 4400/153

COMMENTS ON NEW TENSION IN GULF WAR

GF051141 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 5 Feb 84 p 6

[Editorial: "New Dangers in Iran-Iraq War"]

[Text] The war between Iran and Iraq has assumed a new belligerency in recent days. Iraq has charged that Iran has shelled some of its towns in the past 10 days and warned that it will launch air and missile attacks on Iranian towns from tomorrow (6 February) if the shelling does not stop. An Iraqi official was quoted yesterday as saying: "Iraq is serious this time as it has always been.... If they (the Iranians) do not stop their treacherous attacks on our border towns and civilian targets, we will attack their towns with missiles and warplanes." Baghdad has even named seven Iranian towns in which it would attack selected targets and warned civilians to move away. It has also submitted to the UN secretary-general a series of photographs as evidence of the heavy destruction resulting from Iranian strikes against civilian targets. Iran, meanwhile has denied the charge and its foreign minister made his own threat on Thursday, saying that Iran would hit back at Iraqi installations if Baghdad carried out its plan to raid cities. Some activity against naval targets has also been reported from both sides.

Earlier it had been disclosed by Iraq's Third Army Corps that Iran was massing troops for an attack in the southern sector, with the port of al-Basra as one of the targets. It is unclear whether the events of the past few days are connected with this, but it should alarm everyone that both sides are now openly threatening to bombard cities and economic installations (Iraq had launched a missile attack in the middle of December also against selected targets inside Iran following the bomb explosions in Kuwait). The loss of life in the 3 and 1/2-year-old war has already been atrociously high, and if towns and cities are now brought within its ambit, the toll would be truly frightening. It would add to the senselessness of a conflict which is extracting a terrible price in terms of human suffering and sapping the energies of the two countries: it is costing each one of them over \$200 million a month. A state bordering on a stalemate has existed for months now, and the danger is that someone looking for a decisive outcome may finally lose patience and do exactly the kind of thing which had been the subject matter of the threats exchanged over the past few days--widen the hostilities to include the civilian populations and thus try to break the other's spirit. The continuation of the war is also increasingly having a destabilising effect on the region

as a whole, both in political and economic terms, and the possibility of outside intervention becomes stronger with every passing day. Reports in the U.S. press have spoken of plans to provide armed escorts for shipping in the Gulf which would inevitably mean a proliferation in the number of foreign warships in the region.

The rulers in Tehran now appear to view the war as an essential ingredient of their Islamic Revolution; the war for them seems to have an ideological role to play in keeping up the revolution's fervour. As long as this attitude persists, there can be little hope of a negotiated settlement. But Iraq can certainly help by refusing to be tempted into taking any steps that could even remotely encourage the Iranian Government to act rashly. And, in the meantime, the AGCC must make another attempt to establish contacts between Baghdad and Tehran and work for a cessation of hostilities.

CSO: 4400/153

MIDDLE EAST ROLE, U.S. ELECTION EXAMINED

GF300747 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Text] Dubayy, 30 January (WAM)--In its editorial today AL-BAYAN warned that U.S. President Reagan's announcement on his decision to officially stand for the U.S. presidential elections means that in the next 9 months Arab issues will become "material for electioneering that will be manipulated by the Zionist forces which control the U.S. media." The paper said that the forthcoming election contest will be the tenth since Israel's establishment in which the Zionist lobby in the United States will play an influential role.

AL-BAYAN called for making use of Arab petroleum, financial and economic resources and U.S. interests in the Arab homeland in keeping the U.S. elections free of Arab issues and the manipulation of these issues by the Zionist forces. The paper said: "We are not asking that there should be Arab interference in the U.S. elections, but we are asking that Arab issues should not be used by the contestants to outbid each other. Arab foreign ministries can find a way to do this, for there are scores of reports in their drawers that have been ignored. Arab economic institutions can also play an effective role once they agree on an action plan."

In conclusion AL-BAYAN emphasized the importance of urgent Arab action before it is too late and said: "Arab resources are greater than Zionist resources. What we need is to learn how to use these resources, just as the enemy uses its meager resources."

CSO: 4400/153

COMMENTS ON U.S. ELECTION, ISRAEL

GF310740 Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Jan 84

[From press review]

[Excerpts] The UAE newspaper AL-BAYAN called on the next Arab summit to make a comprehensive assessment of Arab-U.S. relations in accordance with the latest phase of collaboration between the United States and Israel. The paper stressed that the Arabs are capable of blocking any promises made by U.S. presidential candidates, foremost of whom is Reagan, to draw closer to Israel in response to pressure from the Zionist elements in the United States.

Commenting editorially, AL-BAYAN stated that when the candidates realize that the Arabs are serious in this respect, they will hesitate before competing in making generous promises to Israel. This will make the U.S. electorate realize that its genuine economic, strategic, and political interests lie in meeting Arabs demands and not those of the Zionist entity.

The paper pointed out that Reagan in deciding to seek a second term only considered his basic asset for winning in regard to what he provided and what he is going to provide Israel. He ignored what took place during his first term--increase in unemployment, the expanding gap between the rich and the poor in the United States, and U.S. involvement in a mini-Vietnam in the Middle East.

AL-BAYAN went on to say that the other candidates, with the exception of Jesse Jackson, are bargaining in their election campaigns to satisfy Israeli demands. The paper indicated that this is naturally against the Arabs, their rights and aspirations. The paper stated that the Arabs are capable of trimming this bargaining.

CSO: 4400/153

UAE DAILY EXPRESSES REGRET FOR BITTER ARAB SITUATION

GF291411 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Jan 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Ash-Shariqah, 29 January (WAM)--In its editorial, the newspaper Al-KHALIJ expressed its regret for the bitter Arab situation, which has made them the subject of their enemies' gossip and ridicule. It described this situation as more distressing than the talk that they cannot take their rights either through war or negotiations.

The newspaper said that although the Arabs are living in the world of power and their officials are saying that there is no life for those who are weak, they have not been prepared politically, militarily, or economically to be restored their right to Palestine, even if all the Arab weapons are enough to confront the most arrogant power and tyranny in today's world.

AL-KHALIJ said that with negotiations, the Arabs can make nothing but continued concessions. The most annoying thing is that "the Arabs only beg the executioners of the Arab and the Palestinian people to restore the Arab rights and place all the eggs in the U.S. basket, even though they know that they have received one blow after another from the United States, whether with the strategic alliance with the Zionist enemy or the shameless statements which were made by the senior U.S. officials against the Arabs on every occasion."

At the conclusion of its editorial, the newspaper warned that the Arabs' endeavor for the proposed settlement plans--whether they were through the United States, Europe, Resolution 242, the merging of the Fes and Reagan plans, the French-Egyptian plan, or holding an international conference--will not do any good for the Arabs and Camp David will be the basis for the settlement. Then "Shamir will be the one who makes the central decision in every Arab country and after that the Arab people will not need to be convinced that whatever has been taken by power can be restored only by power."

CSO: 4400/153

BRIEFS

EMIRATE TO EXPORT OIL--Abu Dhabi, 31 January (WAKH)--Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Gasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah has stated that Ra's al-Khaymah will export its first shipment of crude oil on 9 February. [Summary] [GF311551 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 31 Jan 84]

CALL FOR MEASURES AGAINST U.S.--Abu Dhabi, 4 February (WAM)--Under the title "The Last Alternative for Arab Legitimacy," the Ash-Shariqah-based newspaper AL-KHALIJ today called on the Arab legitimacy to adopt efficient economic measures toward the United States to force it [to] change its stand on Lebanon and its nationalist forces. AL-KHALIJ said the test facing the Arab legitimacy is defining its final stand on "Zionizing" and "Americanizing" Lebanon and turning it into a hostile isolationist plan in support of the aggressive racial Zionist plan. AL-KHALIJ noted that the United States achieved a trade surplus of \$5 billion with the Arabs in the first half of 1983. It called on the Arabs to stop financing the U.S. trade balance or to control it in a way commensurate with the U.S. amendments [of its stand] toward Lebanon and its nationalist forces. [Excerpts] [GF040658 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 4 Feb 84]

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES--Expatriate labourers make up 90 percent of the entire population of the UAE said the under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs yesterday. Some 10,000 foreign workers are at present jobless. [Text] [GF061326 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 6 Feb 84 p 1]

EXPLOSIVES FACTORY OPENS--Dubayy, 6 February (WAM)--An explosives factory, which was set up in 1978, has opened in Jabal 'ali to produce devices for civil use, such as for demolishing mountain formations and for exploring for oil in offshore and inland areas. The newspaper AL-BAYAN reported today that the factory's fixed capital is 15 million dirhams, 51 percent is supplied by the Dubai Government and [the] rest by the British company (I.C.I.). The factory is one of the most advanced in the Middle East. Some 25 percent of its production will be exported to the Gulf countries and the Yemens, with the rest being used locally. The factory's production capacity will be 1,500 tons per year, and this can be doubled when it begins operating at full capacity. [Text][GF062010 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Feb 84]

NVOI CONDEMNS IRAN'S 'SUBVERSION' AGAINST AFGHANISTAN

TA022041 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Subversion Against Democratic Afghanistan is Tantamount to Cooperation With America"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The Islamic Republic of Iran's superficial and superstitious rulers, who under the guise of exporting the Islamic Revolution have transformed interference in the internal affairs of neighboring countries into a government policy, have set out on a course that is entirely approved of and favored by world-devouring America.

The Islamic regime, in order to allegedly raise the banner of Islam in Afghanistan and impose on the free and emancipated Afghan people an Islamic government similar to the medieval dictatorship in our country, is openly participating in America's undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan and is spending enormous amounts of money belonging to our homeland's people for this interventionist plot.

By adhering to America's directive, the Islamic regime has granted all-out support to expelled and fugitive Afghan feudalists, khans, capitalists, reactionary stratum of the clergy and brigands, and is taking part in the anti-people plots by the region's reaction against the people and Democratic Government of Afghanistan. Everyone knows that the undeclared war against Democratic Afghanistan is being waged from Pakistani and Iranian territory. If the regime of the accursed shah used to implement this U.S. conspiratorial plan in secret, the Islamic regime has publicly succumbed to the disgrace of implementing America's evil and Satanic plans against Afghanistan.

As we are aware, all of the Islamic regime's propaganda, security, military, and intelligence apparatus has been employed against the revolution and liberty of the Afghan people. The Islamic regime's propaganda organization constantly parrots all the lies and nonsense of imperialist propaganda services, and feeds the people fictitious and false news in the name of reliable reports.

According to statistics, right now about 1.5 million Afghans are living in our country, the majority of whom came to Iran during the shah's oppressive regime in search of work and in order to earn a livelihood. However, after the victory of the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan, initially the shah's oppressive

regime and then the Islamic Government, by exploiting the disorderly plight of these Afghan refugees, began to ponder about Islam in Afghanistan and involved our country as well in the imperialist plots against the free Afghan people by granting large-scale support to the Afghan Mojahedin of American Islam.

Despite the fact that thousands of deceived Afghan families have declared their readiness to return to their homeland, the Islamic regime is refraining from preparing the necessary conditions and facilities for their return, and such families are living in the most difficult conditions. But those elements affiliated with the so-called Islamic organizations dependent on America--whose profession is crime, smuggling, and murder--enjoy the Islamic regime's abundant and all-out support and assistance.

According to reliable sources, in addition to dispatching numerous groups for subversion, plotting, and terror against the Afghan people, the Islamic regime is also exploiting the Afghan mercenary killers in the imposed war on Iraq. Those Afghan fugitives who do not agree to take part in the Iran-Iraq war are expelled from our country by the Islamic regime--not to their homeland but to Pakistan. Such Afghan families are brought to Zahedan, and from there are sent to Pakistan on foot. This criminal act is itself an indication of the ugly faces of supporters of so-called Islamic justice in our country. In many cases, those who are not ready to take part in the Iran-Iraq war, or who express their wish to return to their homeland, are imprisoned by the Islamic regime. Thus, one can see that the Islamic regime has totally adopted a course that is favored by U.S. imperialism.

Yet, the Islamic regime has betrayed the goals and aspirations of the Iranian nation's popular, anti-despotic, and anti-imperialist revolution, and is moving forward with long strides toward rapprochement with the West. The policy of this regime toward Democratic Afghanistan, as well as its participation in imperialist plots against this country, is evidence of this fact. Our homeland's people condemn the Islamic regime's adventurous and interventionist policy with regard to neighboring countries, particularly the participation of this regime in the undeclared war by America and the region's reaction against Democratic Afghanistan, which it is concealing beneath the so-called slogan of saving Islam in Afghanistan.

The people explicitly demand that support for Afghan feudalists, smugglers, brigands, and killers--under the mask of Islam--be terminated.

CSO: 4600/330

PRESS REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION

Tank Prototypes Ready

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] Babina (UP), Jan 7 (UNI)--Defence Minister R. Venkataraman today announced that two prototypes of India's sophisticated Main Battle Tank (MBT) had been manufactured at the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi.

'I had said in Parliament that the prototype would be ready by the end of 1983 and I am proud to say that due to the dedicated efforts of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) we have been able to roll out not one but two prototypes,' he said.

Mr Venkataraman was speaking at the Special Sainik Sammelan held here to observe the 200th anniversary of the Seventh Light Cavalry and he received a cheer when he announced that the regiment, one of the oldest Cavalry units of the Indian Army, would soon be equipped with the MBT.

Mr Venkataraman told UNI later that the prototype which was undergoing extensive field trials had been armed with the 105 mm gun, 'But we are in the process of upgunning this.'

'We are also in the process of developing its own power plant,' he said.

The tank, he said, employed the sophisticated Kanchan armour developed by the DRDO 'and will compare well with the most sophisticated tanks and will be much better than those in service anywhere.'

The Defence Minister also spoke of the potential danger to the country by the induction of sophisticated armaments in the neighbourhood and said that there had been consistent firing from across the border in the western sector in the past few weeks.

'There has been firing with heavy machine guns but in many cases we have not returned the fire as we do not want to waste our ammunition unnecessarily.'

'We have to be always on the alert, be prepared for any contingency and maintain eternal vigilance. There cannot be any room for complacency,' he said.

Mr Venkataraman said that sophisticated equipment and mechanised infantry along with self propelled artillery and assault engines were in the process of being established 'to make our army as modern as any other in the world today.'

He noted in this context the need for thorough and continuous training as 'it is not only sophisticated weapons but also trained manpower and good leadership which are vital for winning engagements and battles.'

He said it was the constant endeavour of the government to improve the facilities and conditions of service of officers and men and some measures had recently been announced in this regard.

'We want a satisfied and well motivated defence force and we will do everything possible to see that the officers and men get a proper deal,' he said.

Mr Venketaraman paid rich tributes to the high traditions of the Seventh Light Cavalry and noted that it had been in the forefront in all the operations since independence whenever the army had been called upon to defend the integrity, safety and honour of the country.

Development of Defense Systems

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 11--Having crossed the "technological hump" in the area of defence research, India has now undertaken the development of complete defence systems, according to Dr V.S. Arunachalam, secretary, defence research and development.

Dr Arunachalam, who is also scientific adviser to the defence minister, told newsmen today that the earlier two phases in the growth of the defence research and development organisation were marked by capability building and indigenous development of some vital sub-systems.

India's technological status was being recognised by some of the advanced countries which were now keen on showing their own development work to Indian scientists. Previously it was not easy to get invitations to visit defence science laboratories abroad.

Battle Tank

Dr Arunachalam said the organisation was now celebrating its silver jubilee with pride for having achieved a measure of self-reliance in this sensitive field. The production resulting from the work of the defence research and development organisation had exceeded Rs 400 crores.

The production value would go up significantly in the coming years when some of the high-technology systems which were being evaluated were transferred to regular production, he added.

Referring to the development of the main battle tank, the prototype of which is under trial, Dr Arunachalam said this had been designed to have greater fire power, higher mobility and enhanced immunity than similar systems available at present. This represented co-operative efforts by several laboratories.

The defence laboratories had a major role in the design and development of the light combat aircraft, its systems and its engine, which were intended to meet the requirements of the Indian Air Force in the 1990s.

Listing other achievements, Dr Arunachalam said India had been able to develop a sophisticated sonar system and had carried out modifications on torpedoes to make them comparable to the best in the world.

A technological base had been built for designing, developing and testing the diverse sub-systems of guided missiles and an integrated missile development programme had been launched, pooling the resources of a number of defence research laboratories, he said.

Dr Arunachalam said there were no financial constraints in the implementation of the existing programme. However, it was true that India spent only two percent of its defence budget on research and development as compared to 18 to 24 percent spent by many advanced countries.

Dr Arunachalam said defence science offered attractive career opportunities after promotion policy was changed to ensure that the work of researchers did not suffer after their promotions.

The average age of scientists in the organisation had come down. There was also a proposal to evolve a system under which laboratory directors could shed their administrative responsibilities and devote themselves to research, Dr Arunachalam said.

Tank 'Best in World'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 6 Jan 84 p 13

[Article by S. Kumar]

[Text] Ranchi, January 5--India has developed one of the most powerful battle tanks in the world, of more than 1,000 h.p., and acquired the capability for fabricating a low-level radar which would be ready within a year. Only the United States now has such radars.

This was stated today by the scientific adviser to the defence ministry, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, at the plenary session of the 71st Indian Science Congress here.

Dr Arunachalam told the meeting which is devoted to "Quality science in India," that the country had also developed its own design in jet engines, comparable to those of Rolls-Royce or the European Tornado Jet engine technology was, he added, much more complicated than designing a nuclear reactor. Very few nations with advanced nuclear technology built jet engines.

In this context, Dr Arunachalam quoted the advice given by a Western expert to the Government of India 25 years ago and said India had proved him to be wrong.

Not Even Tractors

The expert had said then that India should confine itself to the manufacture of small and big guns and ammunition. According to the expert, India could not match developments in the field of aircraft, radar and electronics. "Do not attempt to make tanks because you do not know how to make tractors," he was quoted as saying.

Dr Arunachalam said that quality science was synonymous with "defence science" and defence research was a part of the nation's scientific and technological programmes, though its primary aim was to protect the country.

He lamented that India's expenditure on defence research and development was only Rs 200 crores, or two percent of its total military expenditure against global quotas of between 15 and 18 percent.

Civilian Use

Highlighting the applications of defence technology in civilian life, Dr Arunachalam said defence radar could be used by commercial airlines for landing during the monsoon and computer-controlled communications systems could be used for educational purposes.

He described the present age as the 'silicon age' and warned that India could not afford to miss the bus as it did during the industrial revolution.

Prof Riaz Ahmed, vice-chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), deplored the poor standard of science education in the country. He pointed out that only about 50 percent of the 11,000 research scholarships were actually awarded every year.

Also, while only about five percent of India's 600,000 primary schools had any reasonable facilities for teaching and conducting scientific experiments, about 25,000 kits made by the National Council for Educational Research and Training as science teaching aids mostly remained untouched.

Science Courses

He said only 2,400 of the 5,000 colleges in the country offered science courses and the UGC's special programmes reached only some 200 colleges.

Prof Ahmed also took exception to the recent government trend of establishing research facilities outside the university system.

Dr Nitya Anand, director of the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, in his paper on quality science, said political interference in practically every aspect of the universities' functioning had destroyed the eminent position enjoyed by them. He called for a continuous review of the curricula and teaching standards to bring them on par with the West.

He also expressed concern over the proliferation of scientific journals and publications and said the menace of mediocre research work could be curtailed by denying recognition to such work and refusing further government funding.

New Rifle for Army

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jan 84 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 12.

A research and development establishment under the Defence Ministry is giving final shape to a new family of small arms which will replace the Ishapur rifle currently being used by the Indian Army. The new model, which has a smaller bore than the Ishapur's 7.62mm, is on display at the silver jubilee exposition of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, due to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, on Friday.

Taking reporters around for a preview today, Vice Admiral B. G. Mudholkar, Chief Controller of research and development, said the main thrust of the 40-odd defence research establishments working in the field of armaments, weapon systems, missiles, aeronautics, naval technology and electronics, was towards self-reliance and indigenisation.

More punch than M-16: The new rifle being tested for the infantry, for example, would be lighter and have more punch than the American-made M-16 used by NATO forces and the Soviet-made Kalashnikov. It also had common components for the light machine gun and rifle versions, giving it greater logistical manoeuvrability and reducing maintenance.

Another major breakthrough in indigenisation was the manufacture of high energy propellant for missiles fitted on the Chetak battle tank. It took the Explosive Research and Development Laboratory in Pune about two and a half years to cater to the special requirements of high velocity and small gun specifications of the main battle tank, according to a Defence scientist.

Enemy sub finder: Naval scientists have developed a sonar system, called the expendable bathy thermograph (XBT) to give continuous temperature versus depth profiles to locate enemy submarines in territorial waters. The frigate INS Himagiri is already equipped with the system. The expendable probe of the XBT, which costs Rs. 600 against the Rs. 5,000 for an imported one, won the President's award for import substitution in 1983.

Another project just off the ground and being conducted jointly by the Navy, the Department of Ocean Development and several IITs is on the 2-3 man submersibles. A scale model on display showed off the robot-like manipulators which can be used to mine manganese nodules on ocean beds. They have large windows for observation surveys. According to Vice Admiral Mudholkar, India now had the necessary titanium-welding technology to fabricate the shell of such submersibles.

Armour piercer: Among the important armaments developed recently and on display are an external power gun which can fire 500 to 600 rounds a minute automatically on a target without deviation. Powered by a battery, it is designed to be mounted on helicopter gunships and armoured personnel carriers. Another piece of weaponry recently developed is the fin-stabilised armour piercing discarding sabot for use by the Vijayanta tanks.

Some products designed and fabricated by defence R and D establishments are now being used by the Antarctica expedition. They include the "ready-to-eat compact ration" and the light weight, foldable helicopter landing mats.

Gandhi at DRDO Celebration

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 13--The Prime Minister today urged scientists to take up the challenge of developing major modern defence systems because self-reliance was a strategic as well as an economic necessity.

Without self-reliance, the nation's independence could not be preserved as it was not possible to get complete support from any external source or a group of countries, Mrs Gandhi said. Any technological support in the sphere of defence was not easily available unless the recipient country compromised its national interests.

She was presiding over the celebrations to mark the silver jubilee of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

She said self-reliance was not only a good principle but a practical necessity. By the turn of the century a fighter would cost as much as an entire squadron at present and thus there was a strong rationale for achieving self-reliance in this field.

Attractive Terms

Mrs Gandhi also pointed out how, if the country mastered a technology, "people flock to us to offer the same technology at attractive terms." She said in the world of today no one cared for the weak and the less capable.

She said the resources for the development of new technologies and systems were limited and it was difficult to keep pace with the growing sophistication in weaponry. The available resources should be used in a most practical and useful way for developing cost-effective systems.

Mrs Gandhi said Indian scientists were capable of developing systems as advanced as any in the world and lauded the national capabilities for manufacturing sophisticated tanks, jet engines, sonar equipment, torpedoes and electronic systems.

"We still have a long way to go," she said, and hoped the "islands of success" would spread to other areas. The inadequacy was in view of the fact that the needs had grown immensely and the challenges had become bigger.

The government was using science and technology as instruments for rapid economic growth in accordance with the national priorities. But for this, the security of the country was the first prerequisite.

Major System

Speaking about the complaints of young scientists that they were not allowed adequate opportunities, Mrs Gandhi hoped they would be given a greater role and the "managers of red tape" should realise that in the field of science, the freedom to work in the realm of ideas was vital. Some inventions were the result of activities in entirely unrelated fields.

Mrs Gandhi inaugurated an exposition covering the achievements of the DRDO. She also presented awards and trophies to distinguished scientists for their work in the defence science laboratories.

Earlier, Dr V.S. Arunachalam, scientific adviser to the defence minister, said that scientists in the organisation today were confident of developing major weapons systems.

Referring to Mrs Gandhi's remarks that there was no substitute for self-reliance, Dr Arunachalam said the government's commitment to indigenous development was reflected in the sanctioning of several major hardware projects. This would prove to be an excellent investment and would provide the country with most modern and contemporary technologies.

Mrs Gandhi recalled the role of Mr Krishna Menon in promoting defence research and development.

Mrs Gandhi said nobody had believed, least of all the defence forces, that whatever was developed in the country would be as good as that available from outside. The domestic products were considered not only no good but also inoperational, she said.

Defence technology in the country reached its present level only because "we kept faith." She pointed out that even failures were valuable if one could learn from the mistakes.

Dr Raja Ramanna, a former scientific adviser writing for the occasion, recalled that once there was neither the desire nor the confidence in scientists that they could do more than work on some elementary items. One such item recalled by Dr Ramanna was a 25-litre container for drinking water for the services.

Small Projects

Prof M.G. Menon, who was Dr Ramanna's predecessor, recalled that in 1974 the defence research and development organisation was handling far too many small projects not related to any major system. In many cases the projected dates of completion had been over. Therefore, the number of projects had to be reduced from 600 to about 350.

Dr B.D. Nagchaudhuri recalled the case of India's refusal of a French offer to buy liquid propellant from us." "India itself later gave up the effort and France was now offering us the same propellant for sale!"

The two former scientific advisers, Prof S. Bhagvantam and Dr D.S. Kothari also recalled the boost to defence research that Mr Krishna Menon gave when he was the defence minister. "His support was crucially important and enduring," Dr Kothari said.

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Jan 84 p 5

[Text]

India would acquire sophisticated military equipment to counter the threat arising from the induction of latest weapons in its neighbourhood, Chief of the Army Staff, Gen A S Vaidya, said on Saturday, reports UNL.

In an interview to the Defence Ministry's journal 'Sainik Samachar' on the eve of the army day, Gen Vaidya referred to the marked increase in the military capabilities of India's neighbouring countries. You have to get sophisticated matching capability yourself to counter the developing threat.

The Army Chief said despite this the man behind the weapon was more important than the weapon itself. Therefore, a two-pronged drive and effort is necessary—firstly to be in step with sophisticated weapon technology and secondly to keep up the highest state of preparedness, training and morale of the army, he said.

Gen Vaidya said the arms buildup in India's neighbourhood and deteriorating security environment in the region had been engaging the attention of the Indian army.

Gen Vaidya said the army was fully conscious of the financial implications of acquiring latest military technologies but weapons had to be imported before the defence scientists and laboratories could indigenously produce all the defence equipment.

He cautioned that it was a mistaken notion that defence forces alone had to fight and win a war. "I would emphasise that any future war will involve the entire country, which has then to fully participate in its own way and own spheres to win the war."

Listing the achievements of the defence research and development department, the Army Chief said a variety of weapons had been indigenously produced and were being constantly updated.

He said the first prototype of India's Main Battle Tank (MBT) 'Chetak' was ready for field trials. The new Kanchan armour of Chetak and its hydro-pneumatic suspension and the latest fire control system would make it one of the most modern tanks in the world.

He said the army was being constantly modernised. The latest Soviet built T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles had been acquired and these would be manufactured in the country shortly, he added.

Gen Vaidya said the Vijayanta tank had been made more formidable with new electronic devices and better ammunition, and the Indian field gun has been updated with a Mark-2 variation.

Referring to the situation in north-east where the army was assisting the civil authorities to control insurgency, the Army Chief said after 25 years things have become "almost normal". In Nagaland there "is no insurgency".

He said greater stress was now being laid on selection and training of army personnel at all levels. At the same time army commanders must give their men "a fair deal", he urged.

Gen Vaidya said a series of steps had been taken for the welfare of the families of the army officers, junior commissioned officers and jawans. Special efforts have been made to look after the ex-servicemen. The minimum pension has been raised to Rs 160 per month although it was still not adequate in these hard times, he said.

High priority had been given to good schooling of the children of army men. Thirtythree army schools were already functioning.

He said instructions had been issued to utilise 80 per cent of allocated house building funds for jawans.

BRITISH INVOLVEMENT IN INDIAN DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jan 84 p 7

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 9.

There are two British Ministers in India at present — Mr. Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Mr. Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development — to explore the potential and prospects for increased Indo-British economic cooperation.

Mr. Tebbit is leading the British delegation to the Indo-British Economic Committee (IBEC) which meets at ministerial level alternately in London and Delhi while Mr. Raison is visiting a number of British-aided projects in different States.

The visit of the two British Ministers follows closely similar trips to India by the French Industry and Agriculture Ministers, Mr. Laurent Fabius and Mr. Michel Rocard, and the West German Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr. Otto Graf Lambsdorff, on similar missions. But the British are involved on a much larger scale than the French and West Germans in India's developmental projects, partly because of past associations and partly due to the very favourable financial terms offered by them.

Britain is not only the largest bilateral aid contributor to India's development, but also all assistance provided since 1975 has been in the form of grants with no repayment obligations. The total British aid so far, in the shape of soft loans and grants, has been to the extent of Rs 2,664 crores.

The British aid is used by India for the purchase of British equipment and financing technology transfers and consultancy services. A part of this assistance is also utilised for converting sterling into rupees to finance the local costs of some of the British-aided projects.

Apart from selling defence equipment and assisting India in the indigenous production under licence of some weapon systems, Britain has been making a competitive bid to enter, both as a supplier of equipment and technical

consultant in key sectors like steel, coal, power, oil, agriculture, transport and communications. It has also concluded the largest number of collaboration agreements with both public and private sector enterprises.

In recent years Indo-British relations have improved to such an extent that the Prime Ministers of the two countries, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Mrs. Margaret Thatcher have been able to establish a very close personal rapport in mutual interest. Despite their sharply differing political approaches to some of the global problems, the two Heads of Government have been able to work together over many issues.

The present British Government has been particularly helpful to India in mobilising support in Western Europe for the next IDA replenishment in the face of the U.S. attempts to cut down its contribution. As the principal beneficiary of this assistance, India has greatly appreciated the helpful attitude of Britain.

After the two Ministers have left, a 24-member British trade mission will be visiting India later this month for detailed discussions on increased investment and technical participation in more Indian projects. The Government of India wants British industrial establishments to take advantage of the country's liberalised policies and set up production units for making ancillaries and components with buy-back arrangements, in addition to participation in micro-sectors to help India in advanced electronic spheres.

At the plenary session today of the Indo-British Economic Committee, the Commerce Minister, Mr. V. P. Singh drew the attention of Mr. Tebbit, to the adverse balance of trade between India and Britain. The point he made was that this could not be removed soon, but could, however, be narrowed down.

The two sub-committees on trade and industry would be discussing all these issues in great detail during the next two days.

ANALYST GIVES INDIAN VIEW ON SRI LANKA TAMIL PROBLEMS

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

The Sri Lanka President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene, has made some concessions to enable the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) to attend the all-party conference, but not enough to start substantive discussions for an early settlement of the island's ethnic problem, according to diplomatic circles here.

He has agreed to drop the first and last points from the 14 suggestions he has made for the consideration of Tuesday's conference — the first one requiring the TULF to give up the idea of a separate State and the other calling for united opposition to terrorism — to avoid the impression of any pre-conditions to the commencement of negotiations.

Though he has relented to some extent on the question of a referendum, Mr. Jayewardene has not dropped the idea altogether either because of the anticipated opposition of other parties or due to his own intention of using this as a bargaining counter to extract some concessions from the TULF on some important point at a later stage.

New assurances

But the new assurances obtained by the Prime Minister's special emissary, Mr. G. Parthasarathy during his current talks in Colombo, are considered adequate enough for enabling the TULF to attend the all-party conference, provided there is no hitch over the interpretation of point four which says that the President and Parliament shall continue to have overall responsibility generally for all matters "relating to the maintenance of the sovereignty, integrity, unity, security, progress and development of the Republic as a whole".

The proposed referendum at the district level, mentioned in Mr. Jayewardene's 14 points, relates only to the endorsement of the decision of the districts concerned to merge into larger regional councils. But the other idea of a national referendum, which does not figure in these suggestions, goes much farther in subjecting any agreement reached on the Tamil issue to the approval of the Sinhala community constituting nearly three-fourths of Sri Lanka's population.

According to reports from Colombo, there is no progress on the TULF's basic demand for one large region consisting of all the northern and eastern districts. The Sri Lanka President and his advisers are not enthusiastic about the Indian idea of having a coordinating council to act as a political and administrative link between the northern and eastern regions, if it was not possible to have a single region.

But the real difficulty will arise at some stage or the other, if not at the very beginning of the all-party conference, over the definition of Mr. Jayewardene's bid to retain over-riding powers for the Centre in all matters relating to the island's "sovereignty, unity, security, progress and development". A narrow interpretation of this insistence would amount to denying the Tamil community the substance of regional autonomy in their respective region or regions.

Crucial point

It is not known what fresh assurances, if any, Mr. Parthasarathy, has been able to obtain from Mr. Jayewardene on the interpretation of this crucial point. But no matter what clarifications are offered by the Sri Lanka President about the nature of powers to be delegated to

the regional councils, especially in the matter of law and order, the major Sinhala parties including the all-powerful Buddhist clergy, will have to agree to this devolution in its true spirit.

The Indian view is that the TULF leaders should accept the clarifications offered in good faith and agree to participate in the all-party conference to set the ball rolling for a negotiated settlement, unless Mr. Jayewardene goes back on the broad understanding reached during his recent visit to Delhi about the degree of autonomy for the regions. If the very concept of an all-party conference gets bogged down in a controversy even before it has begun, the momentum of conciliation generated by the Indian intercession would get lost.

The TULF is interested in an early settlement for understandable reasons, since it is apprehensive that any undue prolongation of the negotiations might be utilised by the Sinhala hardliners to sabotage the whole effort for finding a fair and lasting solution. The Jayewardene Government, on the other hand, does not appear to be in any great hurry to resolve this tangle, since it has to carry the Sinhala opinion in settling the problem by conceding the legitimate demands of the Tamil people.

A complicating factor is the attempt of the main opposition party, the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, to use its cooperation as a bargaining counter to get the civil rights of its leader, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, restored to enable her to lend a helping hand in finding a solution soon. And though Mr. Jayewardene had promised to do so during the earlier discussions, he has lately been giving the impression of dragging his feet to keep the issue in abeyance until a politically opportune moment.

CSO: 4600/1457

SEMINAR ON CENTER-STATE RELATIONS HELD IN MADRAS

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] Madras, Jan 8--The four-day all-India seminar on Centre-State relations which concluded here today felt that the Constitutional provision relating to the imposition of President's rule on the States had been put to uses that had not been originally contemplated. These distortions had invariably led to an enhancement of the power and role of the Centre vis-a-vis States.

This was the consensus of the panel which discussed political issues and approved by the participants at the seminar. It expressed the view that in order to check this trend, new conventions should be established and the Governors should be guided through a suitable instrument of instructions. The guidelines should attempt to specify the circumstances that would constitute a breakdown of the constitutional machinery in the States. This would prevent the peremptory dismissal of State Governments on "untenable and flimsy grounds" and the suspension or dissolution of State Assemblies.

Right Way

The participants were not agreed on the suggestion that Article 356 relating to the imposition of President's Rule be deleted from the Constitution. The right way, it was argued was to indicate unambiguously the exigencies that would call for the use of the powers conferred on the President under this Article. Similarly the provision for referring the Bills passed by the State Legislatures to the President for his assent called for the exercise of impartial judgment unclouded by partisan considerations, they said.

There was strong criticism of the glosses currently put on the concept of the Governors holding office during the President's pleasure. It was felt that it was a perversion of Constitutional intent to terminate the tenure of Governors to suit the whims of those who wielded power from New Delhi. Among the suggestions made to curtail the "capricious exercise of power" by the Centre were choosing Governors in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States concerned, ensuring the Election Commission's impartiality and independence and organising the membership of the Rajya Sabha in such a way that gave equal representation to the States. Another suggestion was that the members of the UPSC should be chosen in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States.

Another point stressed on political issues was that the media, particularly those controlled by the Centre and its vast contingents of supporters were building up a sort of sinister propaganda to scare the people into thinking that the nation was disintegrating and thus build up a disposition among the public to accept a major shift of power from the States to the Centre.

Free Speech and Expression

The panel which discussed Constitutional and legal and political issues criticised the power of the Union to issue directives to the States under Articles 256 as well as 257 and the practice of deploying CRP to deal with law and order situations as well as the growth in the number of such armed battalions. It was of the unanimous opinion that the right to set up private broadcasting stations was guaranteed by Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution which came under "free speech and expression." Any Indian citizen should be permitted to open broadcasting and TV centres subject to the availability of wavelengths and channels. There was also emphasis on the need to re-examine the provisions relating to Finance Commission, the pattern of sharing of the divisible pool, how the divisible pool could be enlarged, set up an expenditure commission, etc.

The scope of Article 365 also came in for criticism. The utility of institutional devices such as under Article 263 in promoting better coordination between the States and the Union was recognised. There was a general consensus that such an institutional forum with appropriate modification in Article 263 along with adoption of other Constitutional amendmenets and more scrupulous adherence to conventions would bring about a truly cooperative federalism in the country. All taxes should be in the divisible pool and all other sources of revenues such as bank loans to the government should be reviewed and the right of market borrowing should be restored to the State under the coordinating authority of the Reserve Bank. These were the recommendations of the panel on economic and fiscal issues.

It felt that to promote people oriented national development, the Planning Commission should cease to be a Ministry of the Government of India and should be established as an autonomous body to coordinate plans which should be first developed by the local bodies and States as well, dealing itself only with investment funds and decisions. As part of this people's based development based on local plans, local bodies should function on the basis of elected representatives and the State's right to supersede these bodies should be restricted. Their finances should be assured by a local government Finance Commission.

The consensus of the panel was that the Finance Commission should become a permanent Commission with a Secretariat of its own to undertake studies and analyse on the unsolved fiscal relations between the Union and the States, consider the percentage of sharing the national resources as well as making of all grants--plan and non-plan--meet the fiscal needs of the State and help in bringing about equality in facilities and administration with particular reference to the backward regions and poor States. The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act should be reviewed to remove the stranglehold of the Union over the industrial developments of the States and the country through the provision of licence.

Delicate Issue

The panel on administrative and cultural issues cautioned that the language question was a delicate issue and any hurry or compulsion was likely to cause serious irritants in Centre-State relations, sometimes leading to explosive situations. It felt that all care should be taken to respect and preserve every culture in its own region and among its people. The problems of tribals required a realistic approach by the Central and State Governments which should strive to preserve the distinct feature and mode of life of each tribe.

CSO: 4600/1457

PUNJAB GOVERNOR DESCRIBES LAW AND ORDER SITUATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jan 84 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

The Punjab Governor, Mr. B. D. Pande, has given the Centre a cautiously optimistic assessment of the law and order situation in the State. He met the Union Home Minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, and other Ministers on Saturday.

In the case the present improvement is maintained, the major roadblock in the way of a fresh dialogue for a political settlement, it is felt, may be removed.

According to the Governor, the extremists, though still active, are increasingly under pressure as a result of the steps taken by the State administration. This, coupled with the open rift in their ranks, has naturally created problems for them, though there is no evidence of serious demoralisation.

The administrative machinery, the Centre was told, was now better geared to meet the requirements of the complex situation, and in particular the police force was more effective in responding to sudden spurts of violence. There was greater cohesion in the State administration at various levels and better coordination between the Central-State police forces, as a result of which it had been possible to optimise the use of the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force.

It was clear from the latest report that concrete results would take some more time to materialise. For instance, it had not yet been possible to apprehend the perpetrators of heinous crime at the scene of action and extremists could still strike at the time and place

of their choosing. However, some of those arrested in Punjab and Delhi, had given useful clues about the identity of ring leaders and their hide-outs.

Also, contrary to earlier indications, the Akali leaders now did not discourage potential intermediaries who contacted them to know their mind. The Akali Dal had set January 26 as a new deadline for a settlement, failing which it said it would intensify the agitation. However, there were reasons to believe that a section of its leaders would like the possibilities of resuming the dialogue to be explored.

The Centre took the position that talks could be re-started only in a "congenial atmosphere" which obviously meant that first priority was to be given to restoration of law and order in the State. The indications of improvement, though faint, could reverse the trend and pave the way for a fresh round of talks.

UNH reports:

The Akali Dal President, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has sent telegrams to the President, the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister, seeking immediate intervention to save the lives of the 25 Sikhs detained by the Iranian Government in Qasr jail near Teheran.

The Sikhs, who were arrested last September, were being subjected to "barbaric treatment at the hands of Iranian officials, the telegrams said. One of them died on October 4 last. Sant Longowal said and feared that the others might meet the same fate.

INDO-BRITISH ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PROTOCOL REPORTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, January 11--The Indo-British economic committee decided to expand its trade promotion programme to help India rectify its adverse trade balance with the U.K.

The agreed minutes of the committee's meeting in New Delhi were signed today.

The two sides agreed to devise a sustained aggressive strategy for market development. They identified special economic and commercial sectors and broad ranges of products for export where exchange of trade missions, delegations and conferences could be arranged.

Additional training facilities would be provided for Indian exporters in the U.K., in quality control, packaging and distribution systems.

The economic sub-committee recognised the need for additional funds under the U.K. technical assistance programme for India.

The sub-committee outlined an action plan for diversifying the range of products that can be exported from India to Britain and for enlarging the scope of bilateral trade.

Sugar Quota

The British team agreed to support the Indian position in regard to preferential treatment for Indian tobacco, to be exported to the EEC and to enlarge the global quota for tobacco imported by the EEC.

The EEC recently partially restored the sugar quota for import from India to the extent of 10,000 tonnes per annum. Britain has agreed to back India's case for full restoration of the sugar quota (25,000 tonnes).

The industrial sub-committee identified specific areas for technical collaboration to be pursued by the two countries. A British machine tool mission would visit India in March. Some British companies are expected to take up turnkey projects in conjunction with BHEL. A special working group has been set up for Indo-British co-operation in electronics. A group of Indian industrialists is likely to be invited to visit Britain in connection with telecommunication technology.

A group of British industrialists who accompanied the official delegation to the IBEC meeting and Indian entrepreneurs have identified 23 sectors for consultancy and third country projects.

The Union commerce minister, Mr V.P. Singh, and the British minister for trade and industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, are co-chairmen of the committee.

During his talks with the Union minister of state for steel and mines, Mr N.K.P. Salve, the British minister indicated his country's interest in modernising the Durgapur steel plant and in setting up a power plant for the Bharat Aluminium Company.

Mr Tebbit told a news conference today that India's adverse trade balance with the U.K. was largely offset by the aid programme and remittances from Indian nationals in Britain.

Referring to suggestions for British companies to increase their purchases from India, Mr Tebbit said Britain was an "open market." While the government was willing to help to open doors, it could not force private firms or even nationalised companies to enhance their purchases from any country.

Mr Tebbit suggested that Indian companies should try to assess what the British consumer needed.

To a question on private British investment in India, the British minister said that the Indian market was still protected and the Indian producers were favoured. In the long run, he added, protection made them weaker rather than stronger.

Mr Tebbit regretted India's ban on export of CTC tea and said this would not help the trade balance.

CSO: 4600/1480

RAJIV, KAUL SPEAK TO NONRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] Congress-I General Secretary Rajiv Gandhi feels that India should shake off its conservatism and encourage transfer of its technology, reports UNI.

He said though the country has acquired a certain sophistication in science and technology, it still has to import a lot of the latest technology. By the same token, we should 'develop an outflow of our technology,' he added.

Mr Gandhi was answering a question after addressing the two-day international conference of non-resident Indians, organised by the Foundation for Critical Choices for India, in Delhi on a Friday night.

He said it was necessary to win the confidence of foreign buyers before they accepted our technology.

Replying to another question on transfer of shares (an apparent reference to the Swraj Paul episode), Mr Gandhi said, there was a difference between basic policy and individual problems.

The problem had two aspects: one was the Government policy harmful to the country and the other were any rules being contravened?

While there was nothing wrong with the first, it was for the Reserve Bank of India and not the Government to handle the second aspect, he added.

He said the Government regarded non-resident Indians as a vital resource and was keen to increase their involvement in the country's development.

Mr Gandhi assured the conference that he would try to reflect their ideas and conclusions in the Congress-I policy, which might in turn get reflected in the Government policy as well.

Noting that non-resident Indians had done well in various fields in the countries of their adoption, in many cases rising to the top, Mr Gandhi said they had done so without India's help.

He said India had achieved in 36 years what the developed world had taken centuries to do. In some areas of science it was as advanced as any developed country while in some others it was just a generation behind.

Mr Gandhi said the concept of mixed economy was India's gift to the world. A stage had now come when the Socialist bloc was opening up certain sectors to private hands while the advanced Western countries were going in for public sector ventures.

India had led the world in many other fields, including non-violence and non-alignment, he added.

He said it was easy to lay down rules and make them work in small or totalitarian countries, not a vast democratically-run country like India.

"Such a system is not only incorrect for India, but is basically wrong," he added.

Union Finance Secretary P.K. Kaul said the Government recognised the need to provide facilities for non-resident Indians to invest in India which was extremely short of capital.

Speaking at the international conference of non-residents at Delhi he said efforts were being made to improve infrastructural facilities and to reduce shortages in certain spheres.

Mr Kaul said that facilities offered might not be sufficient, but there was a desire to make it easier for non-residents to contribute to India's development.

An Indian legal expert from the Netherlands suggested simplification of Indian tax laws and investment policies for non-resident Indians, and making a clear distinction between foreign private investment and non-resident Indians investment.

In a paper on "the transfer of capital and the role of non-resident Indians," presented to the conference, Dr B.N. Madan, secretary, Netherlands-India Association, says it is also important to frame a new comprehensive tax act governing non-resident Indians because of their special tax status.

CSO: 4600/1480

IMPROVED NEIGHBOR RELATIONS MAIN THRUST OF FOREIGN POLICY

Madras THE HINDU in English 7 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 6.

The main thrust of India's foreign policy during 1984 will be aimed at improving relations with neighbouring countries to consolidate its own position in the region.

It is with this objective in view that, in the course of the latest reorganisation of the Ministry of External Affairs, all the territorial divisions dealing with neighbouring countries, which were hitherto being looked after by different Secretaries, have been brought directly under the Foreign Secretary to provide for better coordination.

But in taking this decision the Government has not overlooked the reality that there can be no uniform approach towards all neighbours since the problems differ in each case. There have to be different mixtures of policy combining varying degrees of flexibility and firmness for making the right impact to achieve the desired results.

A rather exceptional feature of India's relationship with its six neighbours — Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives — is that, although all of them have land or maritime borders with it, they do not share these common borders between themselves. The fact that they all belong to the same sub-continental system does not in itself bind them together under present-day conditions.

The fact that China shares a long land border with India along Himalayas extending to nearly 3,500 km besides having common frontiers with three of six India's neighbours — Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan — does not *ipso facto* make it a neighbouring country in a geo political sense. Though it has acquired a proximity to the Indian sub-continent by virtue of its historical presence in Tibet, the relationship with China has to be dealt with at a different level even when it impinges on the country's links with its more immediate neighbours in the region.

Superpower rivalries: The Indian policymakers have also to contend with the interaction of the superpower rivalries in the area in determining its own attitudes towards neighbouring countries, while taking care to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings or frictions with them. It has to adopt differing approaches in coping with different situations, since no uniform policies could be applied in its dealings with these neighbours despite the fact that they all share a totally unjustified but nevertheless prevalent apprehension about India's predominant role in the region.

The big dilemma that continues to cramp India's diplomatic style and inhibit its responses to the carping criticism and often unfriendly behaviour of some of its neighbours is whether the right approach should be to placate them by adopting a generous attitude and conceding their demands even at the cost of its own self-interest, or combine firmness with flexibility to be able to make concessions only from a position of strength to create a better impact with welltimed gestures to achieve the desired results. The Janata Government opted for the first course in the name of beneficial bilateralism which was mistaken for weakness rather than generosity at times, while the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been an advocate of the second one in the belief that no country can win friends by compromising its policies and sacrificing its interests.

The attempt now is to steer a middle course for impressing on its neighbours that they will not succeed in exerting pressures on India by adopting unfriendly postures or acting as proxies of the superpowers in the region. The policy towards Pakistan, for example, will be to go in for better relations in all possible spheres without prejudice to its total opposition to the present military regime's policy of acquiring American arms well beyond its legitimate requirements.

Nepal playing China card: Similarly, it will be made amply clear to Nepal that its policy of playing the China card to extract concessions from India is not going to pay in the long run, that even as a sovereign independent country it must realise that geopolitically it continues to form a part of the sub-continental system. In its dealings with Bangladesh, India has to keep up a distinction between complex issues like river waters that cannot be resolved soon and the problems of ethnic and religious complexities affecting both countries in the North-Eastern region.

The Sri Lankan leaders have realised by now that India is genuinely interested in the preservation of its political and territorial integrity by finding an amicable solution to the Tamil problem. The Jayewardene Government knows that India is not in any way encouraging the Tamil extremists in their demand for separation. And a reassuring feature of Indo-Sri Lanka relations is that even the big powers which should normally be trying to derive some political advantage from the recent strains have been advising Mr. Jayewardene privately to utilise India's good offices in settling the island's ethnic problem.

CSO: 4600/1449

RBI EXPLAINS LACK OF SEASONAL PRICE CHANGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Jan 84 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 9.

With the prices of more and more agricultural commodities having become "administered" and with the increasing role of public sector procurement agencies in cotton, jute and other commodities, a good bumper crop now does not bring down prices at least during the seasonal peak periods according to an assessment by the Reserve Bank of India.

This progressive change in the prices of agricultural commodities has brought about an expansionary impulse, which had been underestimated by the monetary authorities and the price behaviour in recent months has not been in accordance with Government expectations. In the past, there used to be a downward pressure on prices in the wake of a bumper crop but this is not happening now.

These and other factors have resulted in the growth of money supply during 1983 being higher than it was in 1982, causing considerable concern to the RBI and the Government. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that the major "impulses" which operate on money supply originate from sources which are not subject to any control by the RBI. There are no restraints on the Government's borrowing either from the banking system or the RBI. The overdrafts by the State Governments continue to worry the RBI. The Centre's decision to convert the overdrafts amounting to Rs. 1700 crores into medium term loans has not brought about any improvement in the situation, if the Centre hoped that the move would restrain the States. Several States have again been incurr-

ing overdrafts and if this trend is not curbed the RBI feels that it would become impossible to ensure the overall viability of the financials system.

Substantial risk: It has also been pointed out in this connection that the support which the RBI has been giving to the borrowing operations of the Centre runs the substantial risk of aggravating the inflationary trend. During the last three years the Government has drawn heavily from the International Monetary Fund and a substantial part this became available to the public sector as plan resources so that the process of structural adjustment involving the stepping up of outlays in vital areas could be undertaken.

However, a substantial part of the market borrowings of the Centre had to be met by the RBI. Besides the RBI is not happy with the private sector's response to the liberalised credit policy to meet genuine productive requirements. It does not see any evidence that bank credit is not used for piling up "unwanted inventories."

Despite these discouraging aspects, the RBI feels that the prospects for 1984 look good and that on a conservative basis, the gross national product should increase by about 6.5 per cent. It expects that agricultural growth would show an increase of about 10 per cent.

It was against this background that it was decided that the economy needed a larger amount of credit without at the same time neglecting the fact that during the last three years, the growth in primary liquidity and money supply had been running high.

CSO: 4600/1460

ANALYST DISCUSSES CHANGING ATTITUDE TOWARD PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 12.

As part of the new policy of improving relations with neighbouring countries, there has been a perceptible change lately in India's attitude towards Pakistan, since the Government has started talking quite openly of resumption of the no-war dialogue.

This quiet reversal of the recent stand taken by India that the stalled dialogue could not be resumed until Pakistan abandoned its unfriendly and at times even hostile postures was discernible from the briefing the Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, gave yesterday to the Indian delegations to the meetings of the four sub-commissions dealing with various aspects of bilateral relations.

He expressed the hope that the meetings of the sub-commissions next week would help to break the current stalemate in Indo-Pakistan relations and, in a sense, lead to a subsequent get together of the two Foreign Secretaries to tackle bigger issues like the twin proposals for a friendship treaty and a no-war pact. This reassuring observation would help to some extent in dispelling mutual misgivings about each other's attitudes. But it would be rash to jump to the conclusion that the meetings of the sub-commissions were in the nature of preliminary motions to open the way for a meeting of the two Foreign Secretaries to resume the no-war dialogue soon.

It only indicated that India was no longer averse to the idea of resuming this dialogue in the prevailing atmosphere. The slight thaw that might result in the wake of the latest efforts to proceed with the process of normalisation in non-political spheres would certainly enable the two Foreign Secretaries at least to exchange views on when they could usefully resume the no-war discussion in a more promising atmosphere free from recrimination.

Pak misjudged: A good many countries, including India, the Soviet Union and even the U.S., had misjudged the capacity of the military regime to cope with the recent agitation for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The Indian experts, for example, were inclined to take the view that the turmoil in Sind had the makings of a mini Bangladesh-type crisis even if it did not spread to Punjab, North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan.

The U.S. went one step further and started making a serious study of which alternative groups or individual in the military establishment could be depended upon to replace Gen. Zia, if he was compelled to step down. Though it was not the U.S. policy to ditch him, the Reagan Administration was clearly concerned about the likely emergence of a civilian regime that might not be too well disposed towards Washington.

It is now clear that Gen. Zia has won the first round of the fight, although it is impossible to foresee how long more he would last, since the simmering unrest is bound to spill over again. But for the time being the anti-Zia campaign has lost its momentum. It is not going to be easy for the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) and its allies to revive the agitation soon.

The fact that India spoke up for civil rights in Pakistan without any inhibitions was, no doubt, well received by the politically conscious elements. But the military regime was able to exploit this well meaning expression of concern and raise the bogey of Indian interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan to mislead the common people.

More to gain: But in the difficult domestic situation facing him, Gen. Zia has more to gain from an early resumption of the no-war

dialogue since it would give him the necessary legitimacy for negotiating such a treaty with India at a time when some powerful sections of his own people were challenging his authority to speak for Pakistan. It is in India's interest, too, to resume the dialogue if only to reverse the process of a confrontation that had developed leading to renewed talks of a possible war.

Approval from top: Mr. Rasgotra could not have made his reassuring observations without political clearance from the top, perhaps from the Prime Minister herself, indicating a desire for early talks to end the current drift. A certain amount of private diplomatic soundings seem to have preceded this public expression of the Indian hope that the meetings of the sub-commission could help to build the necessary confidence on either side.

The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Niaz Naik, will visit Delhi towards the end of next month for the official level meeting on South Asian Regional Cooperation. It will be a good opportunity for a quiet exchange of views on all aspects of Indo-Pakistan relations before discussing the dates for Mr. Rasgotra's visit to Islamabad to resume the no-war dialogue, if nothing happens in the meantime to vitiate the atmosphere.

CSO: 4600/1464

PAKISTAN SUSPECTED IN INDIAN'S SERVANTS' DISAPPEARANCE

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 13.

The Government of India has rejected Pakistan's contention that it had no knowledge of the two missing Indian servants of an embassy official in Islamabad, maintaining that it suspected some "foul play" in their sudden disappearance.

An official spokesman said the circumstances of the case clearly indicates some foul play, while insisting that they were probably picked up by the Pakistan secret police.

He disclosed that the servants, who were missing, had been approached earlier by the security personnel stationed outside the residence of the Indian diplomat, Mr. A. Parshad, with some ulterior motives. The Pakistani version of the incident feigning ignorance of what had really happened was totally unacceptable.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, had spoken to the Pakistan Ambassador, Mr. Riaz Piracha, about the missing Indian servants, but the statement issued in Islamabad today insinuating that the Indian complaint was "totally baseless and also irresponsible" was contrary to the known facts of the case. The Pakistan Government had been told of its responsibility to ensure the safety of the personnel of the Indian mission posted there.

The text of the Pakistani statement was released by the embassy in Delhi this afternoon. The statement not only denied any Pakistani involvement in the disappearance of the two servants, but also maintained that despite energetic investigations, the local police had not been able to trace them.

GANDHI DISCUSSES ANDHRA PRADESH LEADER'S MOVES

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by G.K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 13.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, today met three A.P. Congress (I) leaders — the PCC (I) president, Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddi, the leader of the Congress (I) in the Assembly, Dr. A. Madan Mohan, and the leader of the party in the Council, Mr. K. Rosiah — to acquaint herself with the implications of the steps taken by the Chief Minister, Mr. N. T. Rama Rao, to reorganise the local administration in the State.

The three leaders told her that the whole move was politically motivated to deprive the party of its power at the samiti level half way through the five-year term and pack the local bodies with the nominees of Telugu Desam under the guise of reorganisation.

The Prime Minister was informed by them that a 109-page Ordinance had been drafted and sent to the Governor for his signature, but the Chief Minister changed his mind at the last minute and asked for his approval for only the abolition of the posts of village officers as a prelude to many changes in the panchayat raj set-up and the revenue administration in the State.

Not happy: The A.P. leaders complained that the decision to replace the Congress (I)-controlled samitis by mandals (the 320 samitis in the State are to be replaced by 1,200 mandals) which will be filled with the nominees of the Telugu Desam, followed by the abolition of taluks and firkas, along with the proposed establishment of district development boards, with over-riding powers over zilla parishads, was part of a diabolical bid by the Chief Minister to deprive the Congress (I) of its prestige and influence at the grass-roots level in the districts.

Though the Central Congress (I) leadership is not happy with Mr. Rama Rao's actions, it does not want to precipitate matters by permitting the party to launch an agitation in the State since it could have far-reaching consequence by escalating into a Centre-State confrontation.

The Prime Minister also does not appear to be quite clear that whatever the political motivations behind these changes in the pattern of the local administration, the revamping of the panchayat raj conflicts with her latest advice to the Chief Ministers to decentralise planning through the creation of divisional development bodies at the intermediate level between the State Planning Boards and district units.

Toppling bid: In her dual role as Prime Minister and Congress (I) president, Mrs. Gandhi does not want to risk an open conflict with Mr. Rama Rao, at a time when she is keeping her options open for electoral adjustments, if possible, in some of the Southern States. It remains to be seen whether the toppling bid under way in Karnataka to dislodge the Janata Government from power will by itself help to restore the Congress (I)'s influence there. The clumsy way the party has been going about inducing some of the Janata MLAs to defect to its side has already created an adverse reaction.

As a ruling party at the Centre, the Congress (I) cannot afford to have running feuds with almost all the non-Congress (I) State Governments. The very appearance of arbitrary and high-handed behaviour towards the Andhra and Karnataka Governments would

be an embarrassment to the AIADMK leadership in Tamil Nadu with which Mrs. Gandhi has established cordial relations.

The Congress (I) High Command is very unhappy with the clumsy way the party leaders in Karnataka have been handling the toppling operation. The Central leadership was told early this week that the Congress (I) had 114 signatures and was ready to parade the signatories before the Governor at the Raj Bhavan. After two attempts, they failed to muster the necessary strength before the commencement of the Assembly session next Monday.

The Central leaders have been given to understand that it would be possible to produce the 114 members before the Governor, but it might be difficult to make all of them vote against the Government in the House in the prevailing atmosphere of intimidation. Meanwhile, the Governor has complained about the activities of the CID, which is trying to keep an eye on what goes on in the Raj Bhavan.

CSO: 4600/1466

NAKASONE EXPECTED IN INDIA BEFORE END OF APRIL

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jan 84 p 9

[Article by K.V. Narain]

[Text]

TOKYO, Jan. 16.

Plans for the long-talked-about visits to India and Pakistan by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone, now appear to be taking concrete shape with the disclosure by Government sources on Saturday that details were now being worked out for the trip to the two countries together with visits to Australia and New Zealand in April-May during the so-called Golden Week.

Indian embassy sources here said they had not been contacted by the Foreign Office but they were aware that planning was going on. Apparently, details of the visit are being worked out through the Japanese embassy in New Delhi.

According to Japanese Government sources, Mr. Nakasone regards his visit to the four countries as completing his summit diplomacy. He visited the U.S., South Korea and the five ASEAN countries last year and is scheduled to visit China late next March. He is hoping that his planned trip to Australia and New Zealand plus India and Pakistan would

give him a chance to explore what kind of a role Japan might be able to play in regard to the emerging 'Pacific era' about which he and the U.S. President, Mr. Ronald Reagan, shared views in their talks last year.

Long overdue: No Japanese Premier has visited India and Pakistan in the last 23 years after the 1961 visit by the late Hayato Ikeda. This has led to some criticism that Japan is concentrating on developing relations with only the ASEAN countries in Asia and ignoring the countries of the Indian subcontinent. In view of this, the Foreign Office has been urging the Premier to visit India and Pakistan at the earliest opportunity.

Australia and, to a lesser extent, New Zealand are important trading partners of Japan and more than one Japanese Premier have visited them in the past decade, the last being the one by the late Masayoshi Ohira in 1980. By going only to Australia and New Zealand, Mr. Nakasone would give the impression that Japan gives importance only to the developed countries and the inclusion of visits to India and Pakistan would help eliminate the criticism.

CSO: 4600/1471

PANEL ISSUES QUESTIONNAIRE ON CENTER-STATE RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jan 84 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 16.

The Sarkaria Commission today released a 109-point questionnaire to elicit information for a "systematic, comprehensive and analytical study" of the Centre-State relations.

Divided into seven sections, the questions relate to preliminary issues, legislative relations, role of the Governor, administrative relation, financial relations, economic and social planning and miscellaneous issues including industries, trade and commerce, agriculture, food and civil supplies, education and inter-governmental coordination.

In the commission's view, the questionnaire marks the completion of a crucial, though preliminary, stage in its work. "It is not claimed that the questionnaire is exhaustive or that it poses the various issues in the manner in which others would like to do. If necessary, a supplementary questionnaire may be issued later," says a press note of the commission.

This is because the commission's initial attempt to collect basic information did not evoke the expected response. As Mr. Justice R. S. Sarkaria, the commission's chairman, points out in his preliminary observations, it had written to all the Central Ministries and present and former Chief Ministers, requesting them to send their views but "barring the brief, tentative replies of four former Chief Ministers and a few others, no memorandum has been received which might have enabled the commission to formulate a more specific and comprehensive questionnaire."

Mr. Sarkaria cautions against seeing in the questionnaire any pointers of the commission's views. The questionnaire, he says, "has been framed purely with the object of eliciting from all possible sources, views and suggestions on issues gleaned by the commission from published literature. Those issues have yet to be studied in depth by the commission which has no pre-formed opinion or predilection in respect of them. It will, therefore, be not correct to read, by any stretch of imagination, into the questionnaire an indication or projection of the commission's own views on any point at this stage. It has not formulated any view of its own."

The introductory questions seek comments on the characterisation of the Constitution — whether it could be called federal in the strict sense, notwithstanding several unique features not found in other federations — as also on the plea of the Rajamannar committee of Tamil Nadu for greater autonomy for the States by a re-distribution of legislative powers.

Views and comments on the role of the Governor have been sought in the context of Centre-State relations as envisaged in the Constitution and as practised by them in the last 34 years, as also about their performance in the matter of making report to the President suggesting Central take-over of a State's administration, appointment of Chief Ministers or dissolution of the Legislative Assembly.

The points under the head "Administration relations" deal with Art. 256 (the Union Government's powers to give directions to States), Art. 257 (Control of the Union over States in certain cases) and Art. 365 (effect of failure to comply with, or to give effect to, the directions given by the Union), the use of the provision for President's rule and its duration, the working of Central agencies like Agricultural Prices Commission, Central Water Commission, Central Electricity Authority, Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and Director-General of Technicals Development, All-India Services and the Inter-State Council, as suggested by the Administrative Reforms Commission.

The largest number of queries, 39, deal with financial relations — working of the mechanism for devolution, possible alternatives like complete separation of the fiscal relations of the Union and States, special federal fund on Yugoslav model, a loan council on Australian pattern, for fixing borrowing limits of the Union and the States and Central assistance to States.

Comments have also been sought on the composition and status of the Planning Commission and National Development Council's criteria for Central plan assistance to the States and industrial licensing.

The commission would also like to know whether there is support for a U.S.-type advisory commission, a continuing body which would promptly deal with irritants and problems in relation to Centre-State relations.

ANALYST REPORTS CONFUSION OVER UNGA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

'No Enthusiasm' Seen

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 26.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has received the letter sent by the President of the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Jorge Illueca, proposing a summit-level meeting between the Presidents of the U.S. and the Soviet Union and the chairperson of the non-aligned movement as members of the U.N. Security Council, to halt the arms race and save the world from a nuclear holocaust.

A suitable reply will be sent by Mrs. Gandhi in due course, perhaps on her return from the Calcutta AICC (I) session, but there is no evidence of any great enthusiasm here for Mr. Illueca's suggestion.

Not the forum for it: The Prime Minister would be more inclined to agree with the view of the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez De Cuellar, that this is primarily a matter for the leaders of the two superpowers, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Andropov, and that the Security Council was hardly the forum for it. But she would have no objection in welcoming Mr. Illueca's proposal in principle even if it was not practicable at present.

It would be interesting for India to see how the U.S. and the Soviet Presidents react to the suggestion. There has so far been no response of any kind from Washington which has virtually ignored Mr. Illueca's suggestion. The Soviet Union, too, has not paid much attention to the proposal.

Opportunity for NAM: But in the course of informal exchanges at the United Nations, the representatives of some non-aligned countries have expressed the view that, as NAM chairperson, India should not let go the opportunity to associate the community more actively with any proposal or move for talks on disarmament. They would like to see Mrs. Gandhi welcome Mr. Illueca's appeal and add her voice to the plea for a summit-level meeting under the Security Council's auspices.

As a country that has been consistently campaigning for an end to the arms race in almost every international forum available to it, India would like to see every possible pressure being exerted on the two superpowers to start discussing disarmament. It is in this context that India has been attaching considerable importance to the coming world disarmament conference in Stockholm.

Confusion over Letter

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 Dec 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 27.

The wording of the letter the President of the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Jorge Illueca, has written to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has only added to the prevailing confusion about what exactly he wants the big

powers to do to halt the present nuclear arms race.

The press reports from New York had given the impression that he wanted the Presidents of the U.S. and the Soviet Union and Mrs. Gandhi, in her capacity as chairperson of the non-aligned movement, to meet at a tripartite

summit under the U.N. auspices to discuss the question of nuclear disarmament.

But in his letter to Mrs. Gandhi, he made two or three suggestions without explicitly proposing any particular course of action. One of these is that the five permanent members of the Security Council should meet under Article 28 (2) of the U.N. Charter at governmental-level to discuss the problem.

Another suggestion is for a summit-level meeting of the entire Security Council which will include India since it is going to be a member from January 1 for a two-year term. Otherwise there is no specific mention in the letter that only Mr. Reagan, Mr. Andropov and Mrs. Gandhi should meet either independently or under the Security Council's auspices.

Mr. Illueca, who is the Vice-President of Panama, has pushed off to his home country for Christmas after writing these letters on his own, without consulting the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez De Cuellar, who has virtually dissociated himself with this move. There is no one at the U.N. headquarters who can offer any elucidation of what exactly Mr. Illueca wants to be done to halt the arms race.

It was against this background that Mrs. Gandhi said in Calcutta today, in replies to questions on the subject, that it was not clear from Mr. Illueca's letter whether what he had suggested was a summit meeting or at the level of the Security Council itself with higher governmental participation.

CSO: 4600/1411

GANDHI CONCERNED OVER 'FOREIGN HAND' IN PUNJAB

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, December 21.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said in the Lok Sabha today that extremists in Punjab may be getting encouragement from outside the country.

Declining to divulge details of the action taken, Mr. Sethi said there was no question of feeling any impotency.

She hastened to add, however, that nothing could be specifically said about it, since it was difficult to prove such things.

She was intervening during question hour when the home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, was replying to the question regarding seizure of arms with foreign markings in Punjab.

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy (Janata) wanted to know from the Prime Minister if she had stated earlier that extremists in Punjab were getting foreign help.

Mrs. Gandhi said what she had stated earlier was that they "could be" getting some foreign help and not that they "were getting" it (foreign help).

Mr. Sethi told members that after seeing the newspaper reports, the Centre had asked the Punjab government to send a report about the claim of the Babbar Khalsa owning responsibility for killing 35 Nirankaris since 1981.

Mr. Sethi added that the Punjab government had also been advised to register a case in this connection.

Members from all sections of the house demanded stern action against such people who indulged in such activities.

Mr. Ratansinh Rajda (Janata) regretted that the Prime Minister, who was present in the house, had not opened her mouth against the Babbar Khalsa which was a threat to civilised society.

He urged upon the government to shun its "impotency" and deal with the extraordinary situation firmly. Even the speaker and some members of

Parliament were also on the hit list of extremists. He said he did not want a "weak-kneed" home minister to reply to the question.

Mrs. Gandhi said it was strange that earlier she was accused of speaking too much and now she was being accused of not opening her mouth.

CSO: 4600/1389

HOME MINISTER TELLS STANCE ON FOREIGNERS ISSUE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN In English 20 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Dec. 19.--Making a departure from what he had said in the Lok Sabha last week, the Union Home Minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, said in the Rajya Sabha today that "the Government had made its stand quite clear on many occasions that the doors were open for talks on the foreign nationals issue in Assam.

Mr Sethi, who was replying to the discussions on the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Bill, 1983, said the Government had been "making efforts to restore normalcy and create conditions congenial and conducive to a fruitful dialogue". He added: "The Government was to involve in these negotiations not only representatives of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and the All-Assam Students' Union, but all interests concerned.

The Home Minister explained that the Government had tried to be "fair and just". "While the apprehensions of the linguistic and other minorities who have had bitter experiences of the agitation are understandable the apprehensions of the Assamese-speaking people that their culture and interests are likely to be jeopardized cannot be ignored.

"Therefore, we are to strike a balance so that the people of Assam could feel assured that the Government is deeply committed to safeguard their interests. At the same time, we have to ensure that the interests of the minorities are also safeguarded and no undue harassment is caused to any minority group in the process of detention and expulsion of the post-1981 migrants", Mr Sethi said.

The Home Minister said that, if the Prime Minister's suggestion on setting up of tribunals to detect foreigners made in April, 1980, had been accepted, "much work could have been done by now". He said that the resumption of the agitation had vitiated the atmosphere.

Referring to the problem of Nepalese nationals, Mr Sethi said that the Nepalese who had entered India after March 25, 1971, "under lawful authority" were exempted from the purview of the Bill. "Those who are exempted from the restricted areas permit under the notification of August 14, 1976, and are staying in India under lawful authority are also protected," he said.

Regarding misgivings about the provision in the Bill which enabled a private citizen to make an application to the tribunal for determining the question whether a person was or was not an illegal migrant, the Home Minister made it clear that the "provision does not detract from the provision which empowers the Central Government to make a reference to the tribunals in this regard". "What is sought to be done is to provide only an alternative channel to the existing machinery for detection of foreigners. This does not, however, mean that the Government has abdicated its responsibility in the matter of detection of foreigners", he added.

Mr Sethi told the House that the guidelines for the tribunals had been drafted in consultation with the State Government of Assam and were being finalized shortly.

The House passed the Bill after rejecting Opposition amendments.

Earlier, Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP) said that, contrary to what the Government had stated, no consensus had been reached in the negotiations on the foreigners issue. He wanted to know what would happen to foreigners who had entered India before March 25, 1971. The Bill, he said, had only a "cosmetic" effect.

CSO: 4600/1393

MINISTERS REASSURE LOK SOBHA ON SECURITY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Dec 83 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, December 20.

The defence minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman, told the Lok Sabha today that India had always remained a step ahead of Pakistan in defence preparedness, as the neighbouring country had allowed itself to be used as "an advance post" of the West.

At no point of defence preparations was India lagging behind Pakistan, Mr. Venkataraman assured members who expressed concern over foreign espionage agencies attempting destabilisation in the country, during the four-hour debate on the busting of a spy ring involving retired military officers.

The defence minister agreed with Mr. Frank Anthony (Nom.) who said that because of its pre-eminent position in the non-aligned world, India was probably in the list of the CIA's "major destabilisation operations."

P.T.I. adds:

About Pakistan acquiring Harpoon missiles, Mr. Venkataraman said, India would also have matching weapons.

On the involvement of Larkins borthers in espionage activities, he agreed that their activities had tarnished the image of "our country and defence services" but "as against one or two Larkins, there has been an officer who had reported the matter and busted the espionage ring."

"I assure the house that as against one per cent of black sheep, 99 per cent of defence personnel are patriotic and have sense of duty," he said.

Mr. Venkataraman confessed that security arrangements of documentation was not all that perfect, but assured the house "so far as documentation is concerned, we have plugged all loopholes."

Immediately after learning the Larkins activities he himself visited the blocks where concerned documents were kept and saw to it that they were segregated. Nobody other than authorised persons had access to them.

The defence minister explained that India purchased defence equipment both from the USSR and Western countries. It was natural that both would try to know what each of them had.

"It is our responsibility, moral responsibility, to see that information of one country does not leak to the other", he added.

Mr. Venkataraman agreed with the members that in national security matters "we cannot be complacent" and "it is superior and higher than our differences."

/Replying to the debate, the home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, announced that all retired military officers had been debarred entry to the defence library and their identity cards had been declared invalid as part of measures to plug security loopholes./ [in boldface]

All classified documents in the defence library had been segregated and access to them restricted to only authorised persons, Mr. Sethi said.

The home minister informed the members that a new series of identity cards would be issued to personnel working in the defence headquarters from February 15 next year and only gazetted officers would have access to restricted areas.

Mr. Sethi also shared the anxiety and concern of the members from all sections of the house over threats to the country's security by espionage activities.

Both of them assured the house that the government was fully alive to the situation and had taken steps to see that such occasion did not arise again.

Mr. Sethi said defence libraries containing classified documents outside Delhi had been sealed till the introduction of new security measures.

He said a night watch was being kept on habitual late-sitters in defence headquarters and special security had been introduced in the South Block, housing the external affairs and defence ministries.

Collaboration among civilian and military intelligence agencies had been further strengthened to ensure that such espionage activities did not recur, he added.

Retired officers would now have to go through the reception to get entry to the defence library, Mr. Sethi said.

Mr. Sethi told the house that busting of espionage activities was a difficult task. Since 1976 many espionage rings had been busted and 102 persons convicted under the Official Secrets Act. In one case, a person had been sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment and in another for 14 years.

Regarding the progress of investigation in the Larkins brothers case, Mr. Sethi said 40 witnesses had been examined and sufficient evidence collected to prosecute the accused.

Security measures were under constant review and were being strengthened as and when required, he said.

Mr. Sethi refuted the allegations of Mr. Chitta Basu that the research and analysis wing (RAW) was being used for internal purposes like finding out the electoral prospects of the ruling party.

In his intervention, Mr. Venkataraman explained that while buying equipment from socialist countries, the deal was on the government-to-government level. Since defence and military equipment factories in Western countries were in the private sector, "we cannot deal at that level."

However, India did not deal with these countries through middlemen; "we do not allow any agents in any of these transactions", Mr. Venkataraman added.

He spoke how "disappointed tenderers" rushed to the press and gave their version of the deal, which resulted in a distorted picture.

The foreign dealers, the defence minister said, also ran down indigenous defence equipment and this sometimes disheartened "our technical personnel."

He said that retired defence officers were barred from taking agency for defence equipment but they took up consultancy assignments.

About Larkins, Mr. Venkataraman said, decoys were in operation to find out more details. Had Larkins not been in a hurry to leave India and migrate to Australia "we would have continued decoys" and found out where the documents were destined.

He said a lot of information had been obtained following confession of the involved persons, but declined to disclose it because counter activities might start.

Earlier, initiating the debate, Mr. Madhu Dandawate (Janata) recalled several incidents that had come to light since independence involving the two super-powers, Pakistani and other foreign intelligence agencies and said some of them gained respectability because the government had collaborated with them in what was then considered to be in the best national interests.

He alleged that the government had sought the assistance of the CIA in the fifties and sixties in certain projects. These concerned the establishment of a top secret base near Cuttack in Orissa, in securing support for the Dalai Lama after his flight from Tibet, the escape of Stalin's daughter Svetlana and in planting a monitoring device on the Nanda Devi peak to monitor Chinese nuclear tests. The agency was also used for surveillance of a former defence minister, whom he did not name.

Stating that no ideological considerations should come in the way of dealing with this problem, Mr. Dandawate recalled how in the late fifties the KGB had photographed an Indian embassy employee in Moscow and blackmailed him

into working for it on return to India. How in 1979 the Janata government had to send back two Soviet diplomats on charge of spying on the eve of the late Mr. Kosygin's visit to India. Again in 1970, the personal assistant to Mr. Y. B. Chavan, then deputy prime minister and home minister in the Charan Singh ministry, was arrested for spying for the KGB.

Then there was the case of Vincent D'Souza, a PIB official caught spying for foreign powers.

Mr. Dandawate complimented the defence minister for promptly closing access to the defence library for retired service personnel and the group captain, whose highly patriotic act in tipping off the authorities led to the latest arrests.

He pointed out that Major General Larkins, one of the arrested officers, was a Param Vishist Seva medal holder. The defence contractor, Mr. Jaspal Singh, was involved in the sugar scandal of 1976, with which the name of Mr. Swraj Paul was also associated.

Major General (Retd.) Rajinder Singh "Sparrow" (Cong-I) said in every other country espionage carried capital punishment. But he left it to the government to decide how to make action more effective.

He suggested that people being elevated to senior staff appointments in the services should be rigidly screened and subjected to checks and rechecks from the security angle.

Simultaneously, something must be done to gainfully employ the large number of retired defence personnel to keep them away from the lure of easy money. There were any number of senior retired officers of the rank of brigadier and above whiling away their time at homes with nothing better to do, he said.

Prof. Satyasadhan Chakraborty (CPM) said that though the four persons were arrested on November 10 on charges of espionage, the government had failed to make a statement on it in Parliament before it was published in newspapers.

While stating that a vast majority of the service personnel were patriotic, Prof. Chakraborty said that the recent incident had shown how a few high-ranking officers were capable of selling themselves away to foreign agencies for a paltry sum and thereby endangering the security of the nation.

He wanted the government to give a second look to the type of training imparted to the service personnel. The defence ministry should also put a ban on retired defence personnel having any link with either arms manufacturers or any consultancy firms. He wanted the government to find out from which serving officers the accused had secured the information.

Prof. Chakraborty claimed that five CIA agents were working in India and the present US ambassador here was a trained CIA agent. Similarly, the US had posted trained CIA agents in their embassies in Colombo and Dhaka, he claimed.

Mr. Rajesh Pilot (Cong-I) suggested that the government should give up the practice of securing its defence requirements through commission agents and, instead, buy them directly from other governments.

Emphasising the need for revamping the intelligence wing, Mr. Pilot said even the latest espionage case had come to light because of the initiative of a service officer. The government should also give thought to the question of utilising the services of the retiring defence personnel.

Mr. Rajnath Sonkar Shastri (Lok Dal) said that four KGB agents who had been expelled from Canada, France, China and Spain were currently working in India, and appealed to the government to inquire into their activities.

Mr. R. K. Yadav (Cong-I) wanted to know how the espionage had continued for so long without the knowledge of the intelligence organisations of the home ministry and the military.

He felt the confessional statement of Major General Larkins was deceptive and wanted its close examination. He suspected it might have been given to shield some diplomats. He wanted to know if the government had any record of retired service officers in touch with foreigners. He described as praiseworthy the conduct of the air force officer who was responsible for trapping the Larkins brothers.

Dr. Subramaniam Swamy (Janata) congratulated the government on the efficient conduct of the operation leading to the busting of the spy ring. He said the country was being spied by satellites of both the Soviet Union and America. The satellites were taking pictures of defence installations and troop movements, he said.

He called upon the government to watch the activities of trade unions in view of penetration of these organisations by foreign intelligence agents of both superpowers.

He wanted members of Parliament, legislatures and journalists to be provided with information on the activities of the intelligence organisations of the two superpowers.

Mr. N. K. Shejwalkar (BJP) wanted a bar on retired senior officers from working on defence contract jobs.

CSO: 4600/1394

RAIDS AGAINST EXTREMISTS YIELD BANGLADESH ARMS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, December 22.

The home minister, Mr. P. C. Sethi, today informed the Rajya Sabha that during the action taken against extremists, who were active to some extent in the northeast, arms with Bangladesh markings have been captured. Some extremists had also links with camps in the neighbouring countries.

The minister was replying to a question asked by Mr. K. C. Pant (Cong-I) about the name of the country which had supplied the arms and ammunition captured by the government or had camps with which extremists had forged their links.

Mr. Dinesh Goswami said that, so far, only the name of China was mentioned with regard to supply of arms to extremists in the northeastern region. He wanted to know the names of the organisations which were receiving arms with Bangladesh markings.

Mr. Sethi was seen consulting the Prime Minister, who was present in the house, before he told Mr. Goswami that he had not named any group. The government had captured ammunition with Bangladesh markings, but the identity of the group to which it belonged has not been established.

Mr. Sethi said that action was being taken against extremists. A large number of them had been arrested and searches for arms had also been conducted extensively.

Earlier, Mr. N. R. Laskar, minister of state for home affairs, told Mr. Duleshwar Meena that some extremist elements in Assam, including those belonging to the Assam People's Liberation Army (APLA), had been trying to forge link with some insurgent elements in the northeast.

The government had taken suitable precautionary measures. Security forces in the north-east have continued to maintain vigil.

The People's Liberation Army, generally known as PLA, the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK) and its 'red army', Kangleipak

Communist Party (KCP) and its 'red army', the Mizo National Front (MNF), and the so-called 'Mizo National Army', and other bodies set up by these organisations had been declared unlawful.

Mr. Meena said that extremists were not only active in the northeastern region but they were also trying to extend their activity to Berhal and Bihar. In these circumstances, it was necessary to deal with the problem of insurgency effectively.

Mr. Laskar assured the house that the government was very vigilant and the effectiveness of the action taken against extremists was already producing result. A large number of extremists had been arrested.

Earlier he had told the house that there had not been significant insurgent activity in the north-east region during the past few weeks.

Also, the infiltration of groups of Burmese insurgents or rebel groups had not been noticed.

The chairman, Mr. Hidayatullah, stopped Mr. Sethi from making a statement on the extremist activities in Andhra Pradesh.

While replying to a member, Mr. Sethi had said that he had received information about the increase in activities of the extremists in Andhra Pradesh. He was on the point of giving more details when opposition members, including Mr. B. S. Reddy (Telugu Desam) loudly protested.

The chairman said that Mr. Sethi need not reply to the question about Andhra Pradesh, as the main question related to the north-eastern region.

CSO: 4600/1399

SAILO: MOST MIZOS FEEL SECURE IN INDIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Dec 83 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20.—Brigadier T. Sailo, Chief Minister of Mizoram, said here today that more than 90% of the people in the North-eastern States now felt secure in the Union of India and that they had shed their anti-India feeling.

Not long ago, Brigadier Sailo said, 90% of the Mizos had been with the underground anti-India movement and wanted to secede.

Speaking to reporters the Chief Minister pointed out that the Mizos felt safe and secure in India, because no one had ever attempted to tamper with their Christian religion, impose Hindi on them or displace their language or usurp their land. Brigadier Sailo said like the Mizos, the Nagas, the Khasis, the Garos, the Assamese and the Manipuris also felt the same now.

The Chief Minister said the people in the State had also realized that insurgency was against their interests. This included the underground, who were no longer in hiding. There still existed the underground movement. However, it

had very little support from the people.

The Centre should recognize and respond to the aspirations of the people of the North-East to be part of India. New Delhi should provide help to the North-east in building roads and railways and in constructing hydro-electric power projects.

Brigadier Sailo said he had taken up with the Union Home Minister the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh to Mizoram. He had pointed it out to Mr Sethi that following carelessness on the part of officials, a large number of illegal entrants had been listed as voters. Citing the Centre's order of 1972, he urged the Union Home Minister that the "Chakmas" who had had entered Mizoram from Bangladesh after March 25, 1971, should be disenfranchised.

CSO: 4600/1395

SHULTZ MEETING DENIAL CALLED REBUFF TO INDIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Dec 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 22

The American Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, has avoided meeting the Foreign Ministers of the five-nation Commonwealth contact group on Cyprus — consisting of India, Australia, Guyana, Nigeria and Zambia — when an appointment was sought on their behalf by the Secretary-General, Mr. Shridath Ramphal, to persuade the U.S. to use its good offices with Turkey in finding an amicable solution.

Though he was in Washington, Mr. Shultz did not bother to find time to meet the Commonwealth group which stayed on for two extra days in New York awaiting word from him.

This unmistakable rebuff from the U.S. has certainly embarrassed the five-member countries of the contact group, especially India which happens to be the current chairman of the non-aligned community representing two-thirds of the total membership of the United Nations. It appears that Mr. Ramphal, in his undue enthusiasm to step up the pace of these mediatory efforts, had sought this appointment without first sounding the U.S. whether it was prepared to exert any pressure on Turkey to withdraw its recognition of the secessionist State in Cyprus as a prelude to a negotiated settlement.

Second stage deferred: The contact group had consequently to defer for the time being the second stage of its plan of action for interceding with the three guarantor powers of the independence of Cyprus — Britain, Greece and Turkey — to ensure the implementation of

the Security Council resolution. The Commonwealth Heads of Government had set up this action group to work in close concert with the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Perez Javier de Cuellar, in securing compliance with this resolution.

So, in pursuance of this mandate, Mr. Ramphal fixed a meeting with Mr. De Cuellar and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, joined the other four Foreign Ministers in New York for these discussions. The attempt to rope in the U.S. into this effort misfired when he sought on behalf of this group an appointment with Mr. Shultz in Washington to discuss the Cyprus problem.

It is too early to say what the Commonwealth contact group would do next — or for that matter how the U.N. Secretary-General himself would proceed to mobilise support for getting the secessionist declaration of the Turkish minority reversed in terms of the Security Council resolution. Meanwhile, Mr. Ramphal is being privately criticised for attempting to force the pace and make some headway in handling this delicate assignment.

As Turkey is an important ally of the U.S. in its military build-up against the Soviet Union, it is highly unlikely that the Reagan administration is going to exert pressures on Ankara to change its stand on Cyprus, much less do so to oblige the Commonwealth. In the opinion of some veteran diplomats here some private soundings should have been done by India before Mr. Ramphal made the request to Mr. Shultz for a meeting with this group in Washington.

CSO: 4600/1400

REORGANIZATION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDERWAY

Madras THE HINDU in English 29 Dec 83 p 8

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Dec. 28.

The Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, is reorganising the Ministry of External Affairs to regroup various territorial Divisions and provide for a more rational redistribution of work to ensure better coordination and higher direction.

After the present Secretary (East), Mr. K. S. Bajpai, relinquishes charge towards the end of January to take up his new assignment as Ambassador to the United States, there will be only three Secretaries and three Additional Secretaries in the Ministry, looking after all the Divisions under the Foreign Secretary's overall supervision.

The Foreign Secretary will be dealing with the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and all the neighbouring countries, reorganised into different Divisions. He will have, in addition, overall charge of both Eastern and Western Europe, the United Nations, Policy planning and general administration, besides coordination.

East Asia Division: The new Secretary (East), Mr. K. Natwar Singh, will relinquish his present charge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran. He will be looking after the East Asia Division, which includes China, Japan, the two Koreas and Mongolia, and the Southern Division extending from the three Indo-China States and five ASEAN countries to Australia and New Zealand and the South Pacific region.

Mr. Natwar Singh will also be dealing with the External Publicity Division and Latin America which will be under a separate Division, after the present America Division looking after both North and South America is split into two different units.

The Secretary (West), Mr. Romesh Bhandari, who is a specialist on west Asia and economic affairs, will also be entrusted with the whole of Africa under this new redistribution of work following the regrouping of several Divisions.

Two divisions under single charge: The West Asia and North African Division (WANA) extending from the Gulf area to Tunisia, Algeria

and Morocco is being bifurcated, so that the newly created Gulf Division could also look after other countries in the area including Saudi Arabia and Iran. The rest of West Asia and North Africa will continue to be under the charge of the truncated WANA Division. The Secretary (West), Mr. Bhandari, will be in charge of both these Divisions which will now include Iran. He will also be in charge of Immigration and Passport departments.

Similarly, the North American Division will consist only of the U.S. and Canada, while the newly created Latin American Division will include Mexico, all the Central American Republics and the whole of South America, besides the Caribbean region. The purpose of this split-up is to leave the Joint Secretary dealing with the U.S. without the additional burden of looking after the whole of North and South America so that he could devote more time to Indo-American relations.

The present Northern Division dealing with Nepal and Bhutan, besides the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan refugees, will be left undisturbed, but Burma is being detached from the Southern Division and added to the so-called BSM Division that looks after Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Afghanistan, will, however, continue to be grouped with the Pakistan Division, even after Iran is detached and added to the newly created Gulf Division.

Overseas Indians: An Additional Secretary, functioning directly under the Foreign Secretary, will supervise and coordinate the functioning of the Northern, Pakistan and Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka and Maldives (BBMS) Divisions dealing with all the neighbouring States. There will also be a Special Coordination Division looking after the welfare of overseas Indians, functioning in concert with the respective territorial Divisions.

Reporting procedure stays: The present arrangement of an Additional Secretary in charge of both Eastern and Western European Divisions, the U.N. Division and the Policy Planning Division, reporting directly to the

Foreign Secretary and functioning under the general guidance, will be continued for the time being under the new reorganisation. The vast Administration Division that has to look after the entire establishment of the External Affairs Ministry in Delhi and nearly 100 diplomatic missions abroad will also be under the Foreign Secretary who will continue to have the overall responsibility for ensuring the smooth functioning of the whole set-up in the normal course.

Functional link: But, in all policy matters, the Prime Minister's Secretariat also is brought

into the picture to provide effective liaison between the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister in processing various ideas and arriving at the necessary decisions.

Though the other Secretaries will continue to have direct access to the Minister in matters concerning their respective charges, it is the Foreign Secretary who, in the final analysis, has to serve as a functional link between the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the External Affairs Ministry, while the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister maintain contact at the political level at all times.

CSO: 4600/1413

PUBLIC SECTOR DEFENSE UNITS IMPROVE PERFORMANCE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] The public sector Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, (HAL), Bangalore, is expected to export during 1983-84, aviation equipment worth about Rs. 10 crore as against its total exports of Rs. 5.5 crore in the last decade ending 1982-83, reports PTL.

In pursuance of the Government's decision to widen the area of cooperation between India and the USSR, HAL has signed a general contract with the USSR last September for the supply of certain aviation equipment.

According to the annual reports for 1982-83, of the HAL and other five public sector undertakings under the Defence Ministry, all the six units improved their performance during the year though the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited of Calcutta continued to suffer losses due to its unique position. Goa Shipyard Ltd paid the lowest dividend of six per cent while the highest of 12 per cent dividend was paid by the Bharat Electronics Limited, Bangalore.

The two other units — the Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay, and the Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Kolar gold field and Bangalore—also improved their performance during the year and declared a dividend of 11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively on their paid up capital to the Government of India.

The HAL reached record levels of performance in terms of pro-

duction and sales during the year, the figures being Rs. 333.91 crore and Rs. 247.90 crore as against Rs. 275.03 crore and Rs. 226.64 crore respectively last year. It declared a dividend of 10 per cent to the Centre.

HAL received additional orders for the manufacture of Jaguar aircraft for the Indian Air Force and deliveries had already commenced during the year. Its Korba unit, when ready, would produce sophisticated INAS systems giving Indian defence the much needed indigenous capability.

Production of Kiran MR II jet trainer and PPT-32 basic trainer aircraft has also been initiated in the Bangalore and Kanpur divisions respectively to enable the commencement of deliveries of these aircraft to the air force from 1983-84.

The BEL, which had undertaken a massive development programme in the field of electronics, including satellite communication equipment for TV and radio, and voting machines for the Election Commission, registered a turnover of over Rs. 142 crore as against over Rs. 128 crore the previous year. At the close of the year, BEL had orders on hand worth over Rs. 365 crore.

The Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay, also registered an impressive all round growth in production and profit, the figures mounting from

Rs. 126.77 crore and Rs. 5.51 crore in 1981-82 to Rs. 226.77 crore and Rs. 10.54 crore in 1982-83 respectively. Its developmental activities also progressed satisfactorily in different units in the country.

The Mazagon Dock specialises in constructing warships for the Indian Navy, transportation and installation of offshore platforms for oil projects, and merchant ship construction.

The first of its Godavari class frigates, INS Godavari has already been delivered to the Indian Navy and two other frigates, INS Ganga and INS Gomati were under construction.

The BEML, which manufactures earth movers, bulldozers, rail coaches etc. improved its performance by increasing its turnover to Rs. 335 crore this year a 40 per cent rise over last year despite a stagnating demand for its products.

The Goa Shipyard, which builds torpedo recovery vessels, for the Indian Navy, exploratory fishing vessels for the Agriculture Ministry, and fishing vessels besides offshore supply vessels, brought about 60 per cent increase during the year in its production worth over Rs. 13 crore as against over Rs. eight crore last year.

The company has set a higher production target for the current year and expects to improve its profitability.

BRIEFS

UNDERWATER TRANSDUCERS--Cochin: The Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) here is concentrating on design, development and limited production of underwater transducers which are sensors used for surveillance and detection of objects under the sea. The equipment also finds application in oil and mineral exploration, locating fish, meteorology, underwater communications as also for possible studies on effects of silting on dams and underwater civil structures, seismological effects caused by artificial storage of water and eco-system in tropical rain forests. Till the NPOL started work in this area a few years ago, these transducers had been totally imported. Now the laboratory is making a variety of transducers, saving the precious foreign exchange. The sophisticated facilities established for making the equipment include an open-water acoustic test facility at Idukki in the western ghats and an acoustic test tank in the NPOL itself which is the only one of its kind in this part of the world. The Naval Air Technical School, also in Cochin, caters to the entire technical requirement of naval aviation. Started in 1953, it has grown into a premier training establishment, conducting 95 different courses a year, including basic training for semi-skilled and skilled technicians and short courses on different types of aircraft for officers and air crew. It also conducts a post-graduate specialisation course for technical officers. The naval school has well-equipped workshop, an aero-dynamic lab, where experiments can be conducted on a low-speed wind tunnel, and various demonstration rooms equipped with training aids, besides a well-stocked library. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 18 Dec 83 p 6]

SPIES IN PUNJAB--New Delhi, Dec. 21.--Eleven Pakistani spies have been caught in Punjab between January and November this year, the Lok Sabha was informed today, reports PTL. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr N. R. Laskar, told Mr Subash Yadav and Mr Subash Chandra Bose Alluri in a written answer that according to information supplied by the Punjab Government there had been infiltration of Pakistani spies into the border areas of the State. Information from the Governments of Assam, Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland and Rajasthan was still awaited. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 22 Dec 83 p 7]

SOVIET AIR FORCE CHIEF--New Delhi, Dec. 19.--The Soviet Deputy Defence Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Soviet Air Force, Air Chief Marshal P. S. Kutakhov, arrived here today on a friendly official visit to India

at the invitation of the Chief of Staff of the Indian Air Force, Air Chief Marshal Dilbagh Singh, reports PTI. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Dec 83 p 9]

NEW FRONT FORMED--Patna, Dec. 19.--A third democratic front--the National Hindu Front--believing in district internal and foreign policies, besides decentralization of economic and political power, has been formed to provide a real and viable alternative to the ruling Congress (I), reports PTI. The front comprises Hindu-minded organizations, like the Jana Sangh, Arya Samaj, Vishva Hindu Parishad and the Ram Raj Parishad, which are committed to Hindu Rashtra and Hindu State. Its convenor, Mr Balraj Madhok, who is the president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, told reporters here yesterday that the front also believed in independent foreign policy and not in non-alignment. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 20 Dec 83 p 7]

INDIAN COSMONAUTS' TASKS--Moscow, Dec. 19. An Indian delegation has discussed with Soviet Intercosmos authorities the final arrangements for the Indo-Soviet space flight next spring. The arrangements discussed included biotechnical experiments Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma will perform aboard Salyut-7 as well as remote sensing observations he will make of India's natural resources. Wing Commander Ravish Malhotra is the standby Indian cosmonaut. The Indian delegation was led by Air Marshal K. D. Chadda, Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Mr. S. K. Sahiar, Scientific Adviser to the Chief of Air Staff, who is the chief coordinator of the programme, and Mr. I. Ram Mohan Rao, publicity coordinator. In the 12-member delegation were representatives of the Air Headquarters, Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Defence and Communication, Posts and Telegraphs department and the Indian Space Research Organisation. The Soviets are bringing out a special stamp to mark the joint flight and arranging for cancellation of first day covers.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Dec 83 p 5]

INDUSTRIES ACT AMENDMENT--New Delhi, January 13--The Union government promulgated an ordinance today to amend the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, to remove any doubt about its power to reserve certain items for exclusive production in the small-scale sector. The ordinance provides for validation of all notifications and orders issued since February 19, 1970, regarding the definition of small-scale and ancillary industries and reservation of certain items for the small sector. Such reservation has been done to improve the competitive strength of small-scale manufactures. So far, 872 items have been put on the reserved list. However, some doubt had been raised about the power of the government to reserve items for the small sector without specific reference in this regard in the Act. The ordinance issued today gives the government statutory powers to provide for reservation. It empowers the government to define the terms "ancillary industrial undertaking" and "small-scale industrial undertaking." It also has provisions for enabling the government to reserve certain items for exclusive production in the small sector, constitution of an advisory committee to advise on the selection of such items and fixing of productive capacities of the medium and large-scale units in the reserved fields. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jan 84 p 9]

FOREIGN MINISTER VELAYATI INTERVIEWED ON VARIOUS ISSUES

GF061808 Tehran KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Dec 83 pp 1, 4

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister 'ali Akbar Velayati by unidentified KEYHAN correspondent]

[Text] Tehran, 24 December (KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL)--The Islamic Republic of Iran, despite the malicious and poisonous propaganda of its enemies, has always tried to be a major contributor to peace and stability in the region. To this end, one of the primary objectives of the Iranian Government has been towards the accomplishment of peaceful co-existence in mutual relations with neighboring countries, in spite of the fact that global conspiracies are increasing daily against the young and revolutionary Islamic Republic even through its very neighbors. This, of course, stems from the fact that the decisive and uncompromising stands of the Islamic Republic and its unshakable support for the "neither East nor West" dictum in its foreign policy, has seriously jeopardized the vital interests of the superpowers, particularly in the region.

On the other hand, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a true follower of genuine Islamic principles and teachings, is investing every possible effort to convince the Islamic world that a basic change in their stands is necessary so that they could properly tackle their existing problems and shortcomings.

In our exclusive interview earlier this month with Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, the political undersecretary of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, he expounded the Islamic Republic's attempts to improve friendly ties with the Third World countries, particularly with Africa.

This week, a KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL reporter sat with Foreign Minister 'ali Akbar Velayati. In the following talk, Dr Velayati outlines his views on several issues, including the recent Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference in Dhaka, Iran's message to its neighboring countries, economic relations with the outside world, renewed Iraqi attacks against Iran's civilian areas and the Foreign Ministry's new programs for further improvement of diplomatic relations with the Third World. Excerpts:

(On the Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference held recently in Dhaka, Bangladesh): The presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation in the

Dhaka conference was a natural event since we are a member of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO). Nevertheless, this does not imply that when we attend a conference we should not express our viewpoints. At the Dhaka conference, both in its general meetings and sub-committee sessions, we precisely outlined the stance of the Islamic Republic with regards to the Islamic world and the problems affecting it as well as the solutions proposed in this respect. We firmly maintain that as long as the world of Islam, the Islamic Conference Organization do not objectively reevaluate their positions, there will be no success for them in coping with the existing bottlenecks.

(On the Islamic Republic's relations with neighboring countries): Our general message for our neighbors is that peaceful coexistence and neighborhood should prevail over mutual relations. It goes without saying that under similar circumstances, we would give priority to the neighboring countries rather than those which are far from us. This, of course, is a natural principle in the trend of relations between nations.

(On the priorities of the Islamic Republic in establishing economic relations with the western industrial world): The plain truth is that after the victory of the Islamic revolution here, great and serious endeavors have been launched so that Iran would no longer remain a monopolized market for just one or a few countries. We have tried to include other countries in the program of our economic relations with the outside world so that they could all contribute to our needs. In this manner we are attempting to preserve our independence. The reason that we have done this is that if one day a certain country decides to discontinue its trade with our country, our economy would not be affected.

Taking into consideration the high degree of dependency of the past (monarchical) regime upon two or three particular countries in the West, one should admit that our efforts towards the achievement of economic and commercial independence would be a very difficult and hard job. Nonetheless, despite all these obstacles, the officials, thanks to God, have succeeded, to a great extent, in bringing about a balance in Iran's economic relations with other countries.

If you take a look at the balance sheet of our imports from abroad as well as the status of the present trade relations with other countries, you will realize that Iran's relations with the outside world are more well-balanced than before. You will see that presently, our economic ties are not monopolized by one or two countries. Instead, we are maintaining relations, both with Western Europe and Eastern Europe as well as with the developing countries.

Interestingly enough, the country's trade relations with the developing countries during the ex-shah's regime did not exceed 9 percent of the total amount of exchanges, while today it stands at 25 percent. Alongside this, we should also take into consideration the needs of the ministries and other government organizations and factories which, indeed, have always tried to provide the highest quality of goods with the least possible prices.

(On a recent request by the Islamic Republic to the United Nations to send a delegation here to investigate the latest crimes of the Iraqi regime against

civilian areas): We believe that it is imperative for us to inform the people of the world what the aggressor government of Iraq has done to our country. We have not invited this delegation to come here and then go to Iraq in order to take our rights from them. The point is that a country has invaded us and that our people will give the due response to this aggression as they have done so in the past. The nation and government of Iran will continue their efforts against this aggressor government until ultimate victory. The objective behind this move is to provide an opportunity for a UN delegation to come here and witness closely the traces of these crimes. This, in fact, is an encounter against the pretense by Iraq and its supporters of being the wronged party. In international circles, they (Iraq and its allies) are always trying to present an upside down image of the realities. Therefore, we have to take some counter-measures to thwart their psychological and propaganda warfare against us. It is to expose the evidence of the Iraqi regime's scandal and to stifle those who are malicious towards us.

(On the policies of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and program for establishment of new diplomatic ties with the outside world): Our relations with other countries during the past couple years have been towards the expansion of mutual ties with developing countries. During this period, a total of 20 embassies of the Islamic Republic have either been opened or are in the process of inauguration, 90 percent of which are in the Third World and more than half of them in Africa. Our intention is to expand our bilateral ties with the Third World countries and we will continue to follow this policy. A foreign ministry delegation headed by Mr Lavansani, the political director for the Afro-Arab Department, this week left for a tour of several African countries to this end. Five more Iranian embassies are due to be opened in Third World countries, including two in Africa, namely in Guinea and Niger.

(On the Islamic Republic's relations with the West and the countries influenced by the West, and its repercussions): At the time when the Muslim students following the line of Imam Khomeyni took over the former U.S. embassy or in better words the "den of spies" here, it was echoed in the world that the communists have influence in the government (of the Islamic Republic). Later on when the Tudeh Party leaders were arrested, it was said in the East that U.S. supporters have infiltrated the administration. Our establishment or maintaining of relations with the countries which are followers of the East or West, does not mean that we too are supporting the two blocs. We are neither supporting the East nor the West. We are an independent country and it would be no exaggeration to say that the most non-aligned country in the world is the Islamic Republic of Iran. And our words in international circles are vivid proof of our independent policy.

However, according to the constitutional law, the Islamic Republic of Iran demands peaceful relations with all the countries of the world except those which are at war with us. Maintaining relations with a country does not mean the acceptance of that country's domination or unity with it. Holding diplomatic relations with a certain country does not imply that we have approved of its ruling government's policies. When we maintain our political ties with a certain country in Western or Eastern Europe, it never means that we agree

with the policies of their governments. The preservation of political relations is a necessity for communication in today's world. Except for a few countries which we have severed our relations with, for basic reasons, such as the United States, Israel and South Africa, the Islamic Republic is maintaining diplomatic ties with other countries of the world. We have embassies in those countries and vice versa--and this is a natural phenomenon and in keeping with the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

CSO: 4600/335

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS ON IRANIAN FUNDING OF TERRORISM

GF031730 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Excerpts] 'Ali Khamene'i, the president of the very much eastern and very much western Islamic regime, today at the government-staged Friday prayers denied Iraqi allegations that Iran has been hitting Iraqi cities and said the Iraqi people are our longtime friends and we have never shelled Iraqi cities.

At this very state show of Friday prayers, Sheykh Fazlollah, the commander of the 'amal terrorist organization of Lebanon, who is visiting Tehran at the invitation of the Islamic Republic, made a speech supporting the Khomeyni regime and the Velayat-ye Faqih.

During his last visit to Iran he received a \$5 million check from Sheykh Hoseyn 'ali Montazeri. Our correspondent, quoting reliable sources reports that at a previous meeting between Sheykh Fazlollah with an official of the Martyrs Foundation of the Islamic Republic, he received another \$2 million.

The sum of \$5 million given by Hoseyn 'ali Montazeri to Sheykh Fazlollah, the commander of the 'amal terrorist organization, has come out of a special account maintained at the Export Bank of Iran. This account is called, the account for aid to the so-called freedom-helping organizations and is maintained at the Export Bank in the name of Montazeri. The account was opened about 4 years ago and another \$7 million has been paid to Akhond Baqir al-Hakim, one of the Iraqi defectors who is an official of the so-called Iraqi-Islamic Revolutionary Council in Iran.

CSO: 4640/109

IRNA REPORTS MAJLIS DEPUTIES' MESSAGE

GF010510 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, 31 January (IRNA)--Forty-five Majlis deputies issued a message on Monday in connection with the savage massacre of Tunisian and Moroccan people by their ruling regimes, excerpts of which follow:

The resistance as well as struggle of our devoted and sacrificing Muslim brothers and sisters in confrontation with global unbelief, is resulting in the humiliation of arrogant powers of the world. Muslim nations uprisings throughout the globe, in a bid to rid themselves of corrupt governments as well as secure deliverance from foreign domination, undoubtedly heralds good tidings for the oppressed peoples of Islamic countries, the message said.

The message added that such massacres as well as others carried out against the oppressed peoples by their despotic and corrupt rulers, would surely serve to make our Muslim brothers and sisters more firm and staunch in their relentless struggle against superpowers.

It concluded by saying that a memorial service would be held for the Moroccan and Tunisian martyrs today (31 January) as a token of Iranians solidarity with those Muslims who have chosen the path of martyrdom and are committed to freeing themselves from oppressive and tyrannical rules.

The bazaar in Tehran will be closed and the memorial service will be held at Imam Khomeyni Mosque.

CSO: 4600/338

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER CALLS FRG TALKS 'FRUITFUL'

LD011259 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Text] Bonn, 1 February (IRNA)--Irano-Federal Republic of Germany's (FRG) ties in the field of trade, oil, and industrial and economic cooperation were discussed in a meeting between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister of International and Economic Affairs Kazempur-Ardabili and a German economic ministry official on Tuesday.

Talking to IRNA here Kazempur-Ardabili described the talks as fruitful. He said trade ties and the existing trade imbalance between [the] two countries were also discussed in detail. He said too that agreements were reached concerning the increasing of Iranian exports to West Germany.

The two countries also agreed on the training of Iranian experts in Germany's universities and technical institutes.

Ardabili added the FRG officials assured him that regarding the two countries good ties they would make efforts to establish a balance in trade relations of [the] two countries.

The West German official also invited Iranian oil officials for discussion with FRG oil companies for increasing oil export to that country. The two sides also agreed on a visit of a high ranking Iranian official to Federal Republic of Germany to discuss expansion of Iran's non-oil products. Also the visit by Iranian officials to the industrial fair of Hanover, next April, was discussed

Kazempur-Ardabili left FRG for Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday.

CSO: 4600/339

TEHRAN PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S. LINKING IRAN TO TERRORISM

GF081350 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Jan 84 p 3

[Text] The U.S. State Department spokesman announced that the Reagan government, in a meeting held on 14 January, decided that Iran is to be included among the countries supporting terrorism and that the strictest economic and military sanctions will be imposed on it.

The State Department spokesman did not mention the slaughter of 2.5 million Vietnamese by U.S. forces, the occupation of Grenada in Central America [as printed] by the same forces, the military invasion of Tabas in the central region of Islamic Iran, the slaughter of Palestinian Muslims, Lebanese, and other peoples of the world by U.S. forces, when he was explaining the term terrorism as understood by the Reagan government. The State Department spokesman excluded the name of the Saddam regime from the list of the countries supporting terrorism, because the regime ruling Iraq has expressed its readiness to have open diplomatic relations with the United States and with the regime ruling Egypt and has agreed to recognize the existence and security of the Jerusalem-occupying force. The Islamic Republic of Iran was included in the list because of its opposition to the United States and the Jerusalem-occupying force, but the spokesman did not mention this fact.

CS0:4640/112

SAIRI SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES RECENT IRAQI THREATS

GF050634 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Feb 84

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, the spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], in a statement to IRNA yesterday expressed the opinion of the SAIRI on the recent loose talk by Saddam about bombing Iranian cities. Baqir al-Hakim said first of all, this threat of Saddam is a sure sign of the bankruptcy of the Ba'thist Party and presages its decline. He added that such threats from the criminal regime ruling Baghdad are not novel because Saddam has in fact committed such crimes before, even against the Muslim and revolutionary Iraqi people themselves.

The SAIRI spokesman said that the reason for such threats coming in the last days of the regime is that Saddam is aware that the end is near and is weak in the face of brave Iranian fighters. The threats also prove his criminal nature and prove his state of despondency.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim further said: We call upon the brave sons of Iraq and the Muslim brothers in Iran to know that at this stage they are fighting against the forces of world imperialism, of whom Saddam is only an instrument. We ask both the Iraqi and Iranian peoples to continue their stand, remain patient, and land the final blows on the criminal Saddam regime, which is going through the last days of its shameful life, so that all Muslims, and especially the peoples of Iraq and Iran, are saved from the evil of that infidel regime which is a shame to all the Muslim world.

The SAIRI spokesman, speaking about the objectives of the assembly set for its forces within the Iraqi soil, further said: It is for the Muslim brothers in Iraq to intensify their operations. Similarly, he said that it is the duty of the Iraqi Armed Forces to side with Islam because the Islamic Republic means them well and wants to liberate them from the criminal regime ruling Baghdad.

CSO: 4640/111

KHALKHALI SPEAKS ON IMAM'S RETURN ANNIVERSARY

LD311245 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Our correspondent's report on today's pre-agenda speeches at the Majlis. [Passage omitted on remarks by two Majlis deputies on true meaning of freedom and anniversary of Khomeyni's return to Iran]

The final pre-agenda speaker was Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy for Qom. Having expressed anniversary congratulations on the return to the homeland of the imam of the ummah, and expressed his appreciation of the legendary fighting spirit of the Islamic combatants on the warfronts, Khalkhali went on to elaborate on the plots and incitements by the global arrogance against the countries of the region. Alluding to the relentless attempts by the global arrogance over the past several years to expand its political and economic dominance in the region, he said: All their efforts were aimed at thwarting Islam in the region; they intended to remove from the hearts the Koran, Islam, and the prophet's traditions. However, with the return of the imam to the homeland, the monarchical dynasty was thrown into history's dustbin. Having been awed by this, the global arrogance realized that this unstoppable torrent intends to topple all idols in the region. [Passage omitted denouncing Morocco summit decisions]

CSO: 4640/108

BRIEFS

IRAN CLANDESTINE REPORTS GUARDS DEFECTION--The growing defection of guards of the Islamic Republic continues. One guard, who escaped from the hell of Khomeyni and was able to reach Turkey and later joined the National Resistance Movement in Istanbul, begged for forgiveness from the Iranian nation. The guard-in-exile requested other guards and his firends in Iran give a positive reply to the voice of the Iranian nation and shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of their country rise up to topple the regime of the bloodthirsty Khomeyni and reconstruct dear Iran. He, who has seen war at the fronts, revealed that most of the guards do not support the Khomeyni regime and they are ashamed of the calamities which are taking place throughout Iran. He expressed the fear that [the] Iranian nation may not forgive them or not forgive their sins. The guard-in-exile has sent a message to his misled colleagues and friends that in order to clear their conscience they should rely on the noble Iranian nation and should not forget the blessings of Almighty God. He revealed that waves of hatred against the regime, which does nothing except plunder and rob the country has arisen among the guards and now they openly oppose it. [Text] [GF281654 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 28 Jan 84]

ZIONIST POLICIES DENOUNCED--Tehran, 1 February (IRNA)--The Majlis deputy representing the Iranian Jewish community, Khosrow Naghi said here on the occasion of 10-Day Dawn ceremonies that Iranian Jews considered themselves an inseparable part of the revolutionary Islamic people of Iran. He said since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran the religious minorities have been officially recognized and respected. He said there was no difference between the interests of the Iranian Jews and the Muslim people of Iran and that the Jews in Iran are the followers of Prophet Moses (As). The deceitful and wicked acts of the Zionists who try to conceal their inhuman and anti-religious deeds under the guise of Judaism were contrary to the teachings of Prophet Moses (As), he added. Khosrow Naghi, also noted that the principles and teachings of Islam rejected all racist theories. Jews take pride for living in such a country, he said. [Text] [GF011820 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 1 Feb 84]

PROTESTS OVER POWER FAILURE--Reports from national elements state that during the first power failure on the night of 1-2 February, a huge crowd in southern Tehran took advantage of the darkness and gathered together, shouting slogans of "long live monarchical rule!" and "long live Shapur Bakhtiar." The people living in the vicinity of these protests went onto the balconies and onto rooftops and joined them in shouting these slogans. The protests continued until the guards intervened and fired into the air. [Text]
[GF041530 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 4 Feb 84]

CSO: 4640/110

PAKISTANI PAPER COMMENTS ON TRADE WITH INDIA

GF061350 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Jan 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Trade with India"]

[Text] Meeting 14 months after Pakistan and India signed the agreement setting up a joint ministerial commission to promote all-round cooperation between them, the sub-commission on trade has agreed on a number of measures to promote a larger volume of trade between them. Legitimate, indeed, is the concern of Pakistan voiced at the 3-day meeting that the bilateral trade should not leave behind an adverse balance for Pakistan. Nor should imports from India hurt Pakistan's young industries. The Indian delegation led by Abid Hussain has accepted both the stipulations. In fact, since bilateral trade was resumed in 1975, in pursuance of the Simla Pact, Pakistan had a favourable balance for 5 out of the 8 years. It is true that during the first 3 years, which was covered by a trade agreement that permitted private trading as well, the balance was initially favourable to India, but thereafter the picture changed entirely in favour of Pakistan, resulting in a net favourable balance of Rs. 1,716 million for the whole 8-year period.

The volume of trade between the two countries cannot increase rapidly without private trade. Nor can both get the best out of trade without the private sector playing a direct role. But Pakistan is wary of private trade in relation to India. As a result, the bilateral trade instead of increasing has been falling. The turn-over in 1982-83 was only Rs. 390 million, compared to Rs. 660 million in 1977-80. In fact, after the trade reached a peak Rs. 760 million in 1980-81, it dropped to half of that in 2 years.

It is easy to identify the items to be exchanged in bulk between the two countries or agree in principle to expand the trade than actually achieve it. The gap between possibilities any performance between Pakistan and India has been very large [sentence as received]. But if there is the will on both sides a great deal of trading can be done in the commodities identified for bulk trading between them. The export of fertilisers, (urea), lower grade coal, pig iron, soda ash, fresh and dried fruits, petroleum products, rock salt, onyx and industrial alcohol from Pakistan could be as substantial as the import from India of iron ore for Pakistan steel mills, steel mill rolls, stainless steel, jute, tea, coffee, bidi leaves, etc. But there has to be a positive resolve on both sides to increase the volume and reach a target of at least Rs. 2,000 million in 2 years.

The work of sub-commission on trade has to be taken together with the efforts of the sub-commission on economic matters which has decided to constitute a working group of secretaries of planning and two senior officials from both sides to formulate suggestions for economic cooperation. A proposal to set up a joint business council was among the many moves considered by that sub-commission. A delegation of Pakistani industrialists and officials, too, is to visit India for this purpose.

The deliberations in Islamabad on trade went far beyond bilateral trade. The two countries have agreed to exchange market intelligence in regard to trade with third countries and seek technical cooperation in items of export interest to both countries. Visits by traders of both sides are to be encouraged, and the private sector is to be enabled gradually to play their normal role here. What really matters now is how well and how soon the agreement is implemented and the traditional gap between agreement and execution reduced rapidly.

CSO: 4600/333

IRAN WANTS TO BUY MORE PAKISTANI SUGAR, PRODUCE

GF281324 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[From the Economic and Business Review section]

[Text] Karachi, 22 January (APP)--Majid Sarehi, the Iranian Central Bank chief, has suggested to make TCP [Trading Corporation of Pakistan] the handling agent for all goods which Iran is buying from Pakistan.

He made this suggestion on Saturday during a meeting with Mr Mohammad Yousuf, chairman, Trading Corporation of Pakistan.

Pakistan is exporting about 50,000 tons of sugar to Iran under an agreement signed in February last year. TCP has so far shipped 14,000 tons [of] sugar by sea and 1,000 tons by rail and the entire delivery is expected to be completed by April.

Mr Sarehi who is also a member of the purchase commission of Iran, expressed the desire to buy an additional 20,000 tons of sugar from Pakistan for which a decision will be taken on his return to Iran.

He proposed to have a long-term contract with TCP for which negotiations were expected to be held sometime by the end of March or early April.

Mr Sarehi also proposed a long-term agreement between GTC [presumably, Government Trading Corporation, Iran] and TCP for the promotion of trade between the two countries, and processing the requirements of GTC by TCP. GTC is buying maize, barley fish meal and cloth from Pakistan.

He also proposed in having TCP to act as a coordinating agency in all purchases made by agencies other than the CTC.

He also proposed that Iran could purchase surplus citrus fruit and banana from Pakistan under a special arrangement against the export of apple and pistachio from Iran to Pakistan.

According to informed sources, Iran has a demand for 50,000 tons of kinu [kind of tangerine] and 10,000 tons of banana.

Mr Sarehi is here along with the Iranian trade team currently visiting Pakistan.

CSO: 4600/333

BRIEFS

PRC ENVOY DISCUSSES BILATERAL RELATIONS--Islamabad, 27 January [APP]--The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Wang Chuanbin, said here today that the spirit of fraternity in Sino-Pak relations was higher than the Himalayas and a sign of peace and prosperity. Speaking at a reception in honour of the visiting eight-member Chinese youth delegation, he said the youth of Pakistan and China were not only the future of their countries but, the future of whole mankind. The ambassador said it was the moral duty of the older generation to cultivate a good crop of youth to make the future of their country secure and prosperous. Brig Ashraf Choudhry, joint secretary, Youth Affairs, Ministry of Culture, said the youth of China and Pakistan had a glorious history of freedom struggle which culminated in liberating their countries from foreign dominance. He said the freedom struggle was a common point between the youth of the two countries. He expressed the hope that the relations between China and Pakistan will cement in the years to come. Brig Ashraf announced that a youth delegation of Pakistan would pay a visit to China this year on reciprocal basis. [Excerpts] [GF061412 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 28 Jan 84 p 12]

INFORMATION MINISTER MEETS INDONESIAN COUNTERPART--Pakistan and Indonesia today reaffirmed their commitments for closer bilateral cooperation in the information field to bring the brotherly peoples of the two countries still closer. During a meeting between the Pakistan minister for information and broadcasting, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, and Indonesia's information minister, Mr Harmoko, the existing ties were reviewed and satisfaction expressed at them. Mr Harmoko praised Pakistan's role in the Nonaligned Movement and hoped other developing countries would continue to benefit from Pakistan's technological achievements in the mass media. Raja Zafarul Ahq congratulated Mr Harmoko on his unanimous election as new chairman of conference and hoped he would steer the movement successfully to its cherished goal. The Pakistan information minister praised the tremendous progress Indonesia has made under the leadership of President Suharto and hoped it would gain more prestige at the international level for its pragmatic policies. An invitation extended to Mr Harmoko to visit Pakistan by Raja Zafarul Haq was accepted. [Text] [BK291453 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jan 84]

RCD SECRETARY GENERAL APPOINTMENT WELCOMED--(Beiji Tureman), a senior adviser of the Turkish foreign minister, has been appointed as the new secretary general of the Regional Cooperation for Development [RCD] by the Turkish Government. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the Pakistani Government has endorsed and welcomed the appointment of (Beiji Tureman) as the secretary general of the RCD. [Text] [BK311258 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 31 Jan 84]

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